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Accessories and  
threads for fall

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北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



### Page 17 A taste of West Lake

Aside from its staggering beauty, Hangzhou also enjoys a reputation for food that's crisp, light and sweet.



### Pages 20-21 Trekking ancient trade routes

Retrace the historic footprints of the capital's ancient West Mountain coal trade route and visit the area's vanishing villages.

## The beat of history



Jiangzhou, Shanxi Province is the birthplace of the Chinese drum. Its history of drum performance stretches back thousands of years, and its people grow up to the steady beat of indigenous folk music.

Wang Qin'an, 66, has been leading his Shanxi Jiangzhou Drum Troupe in 22 years. His strongminded decision to push a band of rural artists onto the modern stage has given these ancient songs new life in a series of performances both national and international.

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to stay open

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translates his  
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# Capital aims to become country's financial hub

By Huang Daochen

Beijing is in a good position to become a major player in the global financial market, said Ji Lin, the city's executive vice mayor.

The vice mayor delivered his remarks last Friday while attending a cocktail conference "Beijing Salon, Enjoy Beijing."

In recent years, financial gains have made up a significant chunk of the city's economy. Between January and September of 2009, the local financial industry generated \$38 billion (259 billion yuan), accounting for 13.2 percent of local economic growth.

Ji said 40 percent of the country's capital goes through Beijing for checking, and more than 80

percent of the nation's banks, insurance companies and security institutions are headquartered in the capital.

The city is also home to the regional headquarters of 293 of the Fortune 500 enterprises.

But Ji said what matters more is that Beijing is the birthplace of the nation's financial policies and is where the central bank and the regulatory committees of the banking, insurance and securities industries are located.

In 2008, the Beijing municipal government issued a draft notice calling for expansion of the financial industry. Since then, Financial Street's construction topped the agenda.

The glistening skyscrapers

that line Financial Street in Xicheng District could easily be mistaken for a view of Wall Street in New York City.

Once the home of old alleys and courtyards, today the street is home to top financial regulators and the headquarters of financial institutions from home and abroad.

But the development wasn't easy, said Zhao Xiao, a leading economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing. For a long time, Beijing was defined as a political and cultural center while Shanghai and Shenzhen were the financial hubs, Zhao said.

Though Beijing never made known its financial ambitions,

it has actually risen to become the country's financial center, Zhao said.

"As a financial base, Beijing is unparalleled in its access to information and pools of professionals."

But Zhao said it will still be a while before the capital can emerge to exert international financial influence.

"An international financial hub isn't qualified exclusively by how many financial institutions you have. It must have a strong capital market like London and New York," he said.

Zhao also pointed out the country's ongoing absence of an efficient financial service information system.



Fei Yuliang

## European contestant places at martial arts expo

By Li Zhixin

Fei Baoyao, 20, the only contestant from Europe, placed the third in the Taiji sword event at the Beijing International Martial Arts Expo last Saturday.

"It was a really big challenge for me to compete with rivals ranked in the world's top six," he said.

Fei also participated in the Shadowboxing event but failed to place.

"I made some mistakes in my performance, but I thought I demonstrated my own style and skill to the audience and referees," he said.

His father and coach, Fei Yuliang, 57, was content with his son's performance.

"Ranking is not important. What is important is promoting wushu all over the world by attending the Expo. We want to see the event become more popular and eventually be included in the Olympic Games," he said.

Fei Yuliang was born into a Nanjing family with a 200 years of martial arts tradition. He went to Holland to spread wushu when he was 32 years old.

"People in Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Holland were very enthusiastic about Chinese wushu, but they didn't have any brilliant instructors in Europe," he said.

Fei Yuliang's arrival infused the art with life and energy and helped develop wushu in Europe. Today he has 17 martial clubs in Holland and more than 30,000 across Europe.

But he complained that many of wushu's traditional cores, like its role in cultivating the practitioner's sense of morality, have been lost in its transition to a competitive sport.

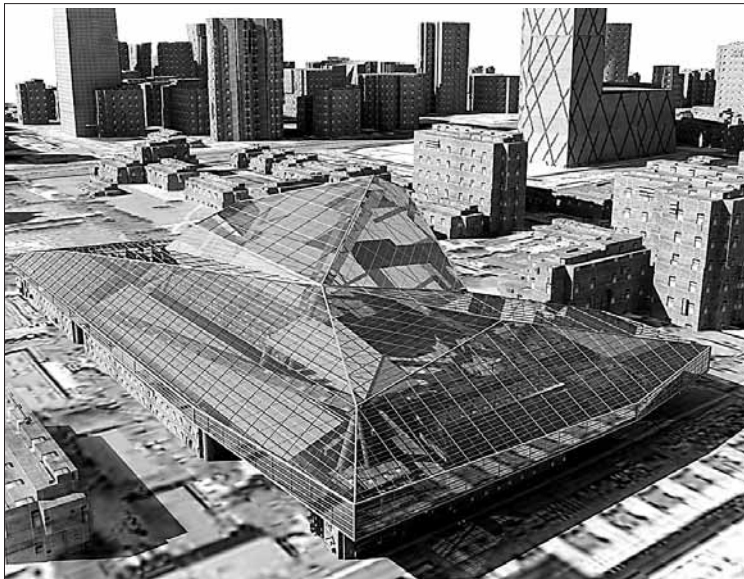
Fei's continues to instruct his students in Chinese cultural values as well as martial arts.



Fei Baoyao

Photos provided by Fei Wushu Club

## Design competition collects new faces for Cable 8



Iranian architects Massoud and Ali Afsarmanesh envision Cable 8 being covered in glass. Their design won first place. Photo provided by ZNA

By Zhang Dongya

Six projects from the US, Iran and China won the first Architects in Mission (AIM) international competition last Friday at Cable 8 Creative Center, the last factory in Beijing's central business district (CBD).

The competition was held by ZNA, a Boston-based architecture and urban design firm aiming to collect ideas for the future development of the factory.

The first prize went to Iranian architects Massoud Afsarmanesh and Ali Afsarmanesh, who designed a glass cover over the old space.

"They won the competition because their project was doable and practical. Their model was fluent, bright and eye-catching," said Darren Chang, senior archi-

tect of ZNA.

"Since China is promoting large landmark structures, their design was exactly the kind we need," he said.

Other works included the third-prize winner "Civilian Gardens of a Big City," submitted by Chinese competitors Wu Yang and Han Xili, who placed rentable gardens in Cable 8 in an attempt to fuse rural agriculture and the urban balcony.

"We hope the awarded projects will influence Cable 8's decision-makers when they consider making the transformation," Chang said.

Similar folk creations and academic competitions have influenced the development decisions of other governments abroad, he said.

"We hope this could also happen in China, even if it is a long shot," he said.

Cable 8 is located in the former Beijing Electric Wire and Cable Factory on Jianguo Road.

The factory complex, built in 1958, began its transformation into a culture and creative center three years ago.

Eight of its 20 buildings were redecorated. However, the architecture – typical of industrial buildings of the 1950s and 1970s – was left untouched. They have since become home to art galleries, design offices, photography studios, advertising agencies and clothing shops.

The juxtaposition of old and new elements in each design is intended to raise awareness of

the country's ties to its recent industrial past – a visual reminder of why it enjoys prosperity today.

Cable 8 appears on many industry tour lists in the city, but how it will undergo further transformation is unclear.

"Actually using one of the designs will be difficult and complicated. It must balance the demands of the developers, architects and the government. Technology usually becomes secondary," Chang said.

ZNA said they would continue the competition next year with new topics on urban design. It is targeting college students who are majoring in architecture and young architects who have fewer than five years of work experience.



# Problems and potential in community libraries

By Zhao Hongyi

Two years ago, the municipal government appealed to all communities to set up their own libraries and encourage residents to donate books.

As of June, this plan to create community-level cultural centers has resulted in the creation of 1,292 new libraries.

But at many, management and staff say development has come to a screeching halt. Many are still searching for a sustainable model and new ways to attract readers.



Maizidian Community Library collects foreign language books from neighboring embassies.

CFP Photo

## Exodus of readers

"With the semester about to start, our readers are mainly kids and their grandparents. Our volunteer operators are vanishing back to school."

— Mou Li, volunteer, Sanhuan Xincheng Community Library

It has been unusually quiet at the Sanhuan Xincheng community library since the new semester began.

While elementary and high school student readers are busy preparing for the new school year, the college-age temps that made up the library staff have abandoned the project for campus life.

Ostensibly, the library is still open — even though the lights are out and the staff is gone. "In principle, we are open as long as we have readers. But when no one comes, we have to shut down," Mou Li, one of the volunteers, said.

The library space has been handed back to the community center for the time being.

Sanhuan Xincheng has a collection of more than 8,000 books and magazines. Aside from its large collection of fiction, it also has non-fiction titles for adult readers interested in child rearing, healthcare and business management.

"The community is hoping to find new volunteers among retirees and housewives," Mou said.



Retired local residents frequent the community library in Anzhen Xi Li.

Space is a growing problem for many developing libraries.

Photos by Zhao Hongyi

## Facing difficulties

"We have a hard time getting the books out there and keeping a permanent venue."

— Lan Niao, Huilongguan Kids Library

"We don't have the money to buy the new titles that could attract readers."

— Li Xin, Anzhen Xi Li Community Library

Sanhuan Xincheng library is not alone in its problems.

In the two years since the government called for community libraries, 1,292 opened to serve 49 percent of the city's residential communities.

"We ask residents to donate their books and magazines and budget to purchase books," said Sun Yuetang from the Shenggu residential community. "Nearly 90 percent of our books are donated. But we still cannot meet the residents' demands for newer, better books."

Huilongguan, a huge com-

munity outside North Fifth Ring Road, has had a library since 2008. Volunteers from the neighborhood maintain the library and raise 1,200 yuan each year to purchase new books. It recently opened a second library to target young readers.

"We have to rent space in the senior sports center," Lan Niao, one of the volunteers, said. "For us, that's the biggest headache. We never know when they will force us to move out."

Lan and her volunteers started their library in a farmer's yard and later moved to a coffee bar. Finding readers has not been a problem: finding somewhere to store equipment and books has.

At Anzhen Xi Li, the community library has tens of thousands of books and dozens of periodicals. Local residents like the library, and nearly 100 of them are regular readers who spend their days there. Its computer network is connected to Capital Library, allowing read-

ers to search the larger library for books they might need.

"It is quiet here, very nice and comfortable," said Li Shouqing, a retired local resident and old acquaintance of the library.

But Anzhen's library faces the problem of a permanent venue. It is currently located on the noisiest corner of the residential park, and many visitors have complained, asking for a quieter location, said Li Xin, one of the operators, said.

New books, however, are not a problem. Li said the library has close ties with several other large community libraries, and they rotate stock on a regular basis.

Because the library is run as a non-profit with no backing, Li can only open it during working hours. "We cannot afford the electricity and water to keep it open longer."

Without a budget, a permanent location, a growing collection of books and new readers, Lan and Li said they fear it may be difficult to continue.

## Creative solutions

"We can walk out to collect books from government agencies, embassies and universities to enrich our own collections."

— Jim Habib, retired American in Tongzhou

The library-building campaign caught the attention of several foreigners who decided to start an English library. Jim Habib and his wife Lorene are one of the couples maintaining a small English library in Tongzhou District.

Aside from calling for donations, the couple actively solicits books and magazines from embassies and colleges. They hope their small library can eventually become a bookstore and English club.

"We have to take the initiative to collect books and magazines if we are determined to build up our library," Habib said.

But like other libraries, the Habibs also need permanent staff and regular volunteers.

"Communities should try to hire people who have social work experience and who know how to make connections to solve problems," said Yang Rong, an assistant professor of social management at Beijing University of Technology.

Some of that networking may be tackled by Capital Library.

"We are building a network of community libraries that will be based on four levels: municipality, downtown residential communities, suburban districts and the rural countryside," said Deng Juying, vice curator of the Capital Library, the proposer of the initiative.

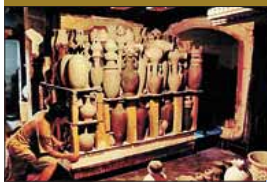
Last year, the municipal government started a fund that will be used to supply each district with a yearly sum of 1.5 million yuan to be used for new books. Dongcheng District has already organized a center to oversee purchases, distribution and circulation between all libraries under its control.

"We are still just getting started, so I'm sure things will improve once the government starts to support our best efforts," Yang said.

"Community libraries aren't about size," Deng said.

"Of course, we most certainly would expand, given the opportunity."

# Counterfeit industry may crash antiques trade, experts warn



Shenhou County's workshops produce nearly undetectable counterfeits.

## Know your fakes

Panjiayuan in Chaoyang District is famous for its 50,000 square-meter antique market — a training ground where many relic hunters go to learn how to tell a fake from a historical gem.

Of course, the vendors wouldn't be there if everyone shopped with the eye of an expert.

Vendors say the market is better described as a breeding ground for "rich peasants," who sell their latest fake antiques to eager and often clueless tourists.

"Each year, thousands come to Panjiayuan to profit by selling these fake antiques," said Wu Shu, a cultural scholar who has spent the last five years studying the dark sides of the national antique trade.

Xiao Ge, 31, is one such rich peasant.

In 1999, Xiao's friends told him that selling fake artifacts in Beijing was as easy as printing money. With only five years of primary school education, the 20-year-old left his Henan Province village to seek cash in the big city.

He got his start by helping antique traders locate collectors, and eventually went on to sell small jades. Today, Xiao owns a Panjiayuan store with two branches in town where he trades in furniture worth millions of yuan.

Xiao has seen a dramatic change in the market during the last decade.

"Ten years ago, when I just started doing business, most of the artifacts being traded were real antiques acquired by tomb raiders. Finishing each deal was a dangerous experience because we knew we were doing something illegal," he said.

Then counterfeit goods began pouring into the market, making it easier and safer to earn money. "Most are produced with exquisite techniques. Some fake artifacts that cost only a few dozen yuan can be sold in a show window for the price of a real one," he said.

Xiao and other vendors consider selling counterfeits to new collectors at high prices a "tuition fee" of sorts.

Less perfect fakes are labeled as imitations and sold a hundred times their production cost to tourists or foreigners looking for decorations or gifts. "So the counterfeits on the market have two sides. Some are for collectors, and others are for common use," he said.

"Eighty percent of the antiques at Panjiayuan are fakes," said Li Yanjun, a researcher of the counterfeiting industry at Beijing Oriental University.

By Liang Meilan

The heated debate over the legitimacy of Cao Cao's tomb escalated this week when a Hubei-based scholar of cultural relics demonstrated that the relics found within it were created using the same counterfeiting techniques as many shady dealers of dubious antiquities.

While not everyone is convinced of his proof, the news has drawn attention to the alarming accuracy with which the fake cultural relic industry reinvents history.

The relatively mature industry, which survives by taking advantage of weak legislation, is currently generating more than 10 billion yuan per year. Some experts are pointing to a coming "credit crisis" in the market for antiques.



A Hubei scholar says Cao Cao's treasures look suspiciously similar to the Dirt Market's.



Many are sold to tourists for 100 times their production cost.



Fan Jiashan/CFP

"The big problem is that most of the fakes end up in antique stores and auction shops. Once they end up there, they wreak havoc on the market," he said.

## National chain

Many people throughout the industry chain are enjoying an easy life with the income they make by their contributions to counterfeiting.

At a family courtyard in Shenhou County, the birthplace of Jun porcelain in Henan Province, countless porcelain sculptures occupy the whole yard. Ma Jukui, who works at the Porcelain Research Center in Henan Province, described these homes as counterfeit museums.

"Henan is a province where many ancient cultural artifacts are unearthed. Many villages have embraced the production of fakes

as a new and profitable business. In fact, in many villages it is the pillar industry," he said.

The phenomenon is also widespread in Shanxi and Liaoning provinces. "In most cases, the place where the real artifacts are unearthed is the place where imitated ones are made, partly because of the inherited crafts and partly because of the abundance of raw materials," said Li Yanjun.

In keeping pace with modern technology, counterfeiting techniques have been improved to an astonishing level. Making an artifact look ancient is the most crucial step.

"A common method Shenhou County people use is to bury the new porcelain for two or three years so it can absorb mud. They then dip it into a mixture of hydrochloric acid and ethyl alcohol, causing

the mud to stick," he said.

Counterfeiters are even developing new techniques designed to beat current detection. Today, most artifacts are dated using a thermoluminescent dating technique.

"But it is easy to quickly 'age' the porcelain by putting it on an aircraft," said a vendor who refused to give his name. "The porcelain must go through an X-ray check at the airport, which makes the surface 'age' 200 years per second," he said.

## No punishment for fakes

The real victims are the consumers and collectors.

Fang Hong, a collector, recalled an irritating experience two years ago when he was swindled into buying a fake.

He paid 50 times the value on something that cost, at most, 40 yuan to produce. When he realized

the deception, Fang turned to the Consumers' Association and the Cultural Relic Bureau for help. "But I ended up getting told that there are no laws to regulate the fake antiques industry. They said the industry is too complicated," he said.

It is strange that the country has harsh punishments for people who trade in real cultural relics, but not a single law to punish people who trade in their look-alikes, he said.

"The absence of any public body to oversee the artifacts trade makes the problem impossible to squash," he said.

The country also lacks a standardized training system for appraisers. "Their poor performance is what leads to the widespread selling of counterfeit artifacts," he said.

"Every other profession, be it law, medicine or accounting, has some kind of strict approval exam and verification system," he said.

In some aspects, the appraisers are even less professional than the counterfeiters. "I admit that we do have a lot to learn from them (the counterfeiters) — not only to improve our appraisal abilities, but to learn to perform their highly skilled repairs," said Guan Haisen, an appraiser.

Liu Jianye, secretary-general of the Committee of Collection Experts, agreed that a qualification exam for appraisers is the best solution.

"It would also ensure that when an economic dispute occurs over a fake artifact, the appraiser who issued the certificate of authenticity would be required to shoulder his or her own share of the responsibility," he said.



# Shenzhen at 30

## What's next for the nation's special economic zone?

By Huang Daohen

August 26 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the country's first batch of special economic zones. Shenzhen was one of them, and the government is now mapping out how the city should develop in the years to come.

Deng Xiaoping Portrait Square is now a local iconic sight in Shenzhen.

Wu Huijun/IC Photo



For developed countries, 30 years isn't long enough for any significant change to take root. But for Shenzhen, these last 30 years have been transformative. What was a small fishing village turned it into an economic marvel in ways completely unprecedented in the history of modernization.

An article in Hong Kong-based *Asia Times* pointed out that there aren't many world cities with more than 10 million residents, but there's certainly only one that had a population of only 20,000 three decades ago: Shenzhen.

On August 26, 1980, the central government granted Shenzhen privileges as a special economic zone, putting it in a class of its own. The city was supposed to be an experiment in market economy and open to the outside world.

Since then, the city has seen an unparalleled average annual growth rate of 28 percent.

Recently, Shenzhen set a GDP target of 1.5 trillion yuan by 2015, the *People's Daily* reported, with the annual per capita income increasing from 29,000 yuan to 49,000 yuan.

### Analysis What is next for Shenzhen?

Shenzhen's development is of critical importance to China's policy of opening up to the outside world, said Chen Jun, an editor at Xinhua News Agency.

But Chen said the next step for Shenzhen is to lead a round of admin-

istrative reforms.

For decades, centralized government was the key feature of the country's administrative system. But since Shenzhen was created in the free enterprise model, the government's role in this aspect is being challenged, Chen

said. "Without further political reform, Shenzhen could jeopardize its economic achievements."

Chen said Shenzhen needs to learn from its neighbors, like Hong Kong and Singapore, and reposition the government's role to build an effective super-

visory mechanism.

But administrative reform is easier said than done. "Therefore, the Shenzhen municipal government could be a proving ground for reform," Chen said. "And Shenzhen should also be a model of success in this regard."



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Free Entrance

# Crash exposes shady safety record of regional airlines



The Yichun crash has many scrutinizing the safety of the entire regional air industry.

Wang Zhifu/CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

The country's flight safety record of 2,102 consecutive days without a crash came to an end last Tuesday when a Henan Airlines Embraer ERJ-190 jet crash-landed at Lindu Airport in Yichun, Heilongjiang Province.

The crash killed 42 passengers and injured 54.

The country's last severe air crash was an Eastern Airlines Bombardier CRJ-200, which crashed in Baotou, Inner Mongolia on November 21, 2004, killing all 53 people on board and two on the ground.

Last Saturday, national aviation regulators ordered China Express Airlines to suspend its regional flight operations from September 1 after an incident in which the tip of a wing on its CRJ-200 plane scraped the ground during a landing at Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport.

## Death of a regional airline

Ma Xueqian, a 47-year-old airport cleaner in Yichun, has witnessed two of Lindu's most noteworthy events: the airport's opening on August 27, 2009, and the plane crash on August 24, 2010.

"I never imagined this would be how the airport celebrated its first anniversary," Ma said.

The opening of Lindu airport brought new opportunities to the city, and many residents visited the airport on its opening day to welcome the first passengers from Beijing.

But the crash has marred the airport's image.

Sadder than Ma and others who depend on the airport was the one-year-old Henan Airlines, a subsidiary funded by Shenzhen Airlines.

The Henan Administration for Industry and Commerce announced last Friday that it would revoke the disgraced airline's right to use Henan in its name for having "misled the public and tarnished the province's image."

The State Council's probe of the crash is ongoing, and in place of its findings are growing fears over the country's air travel safety.

Henan Airlines was previously known as Kunpeng Airlines. It was re-launched as Henan Airlines this March after its headquarters moved to Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, in September 2009.

It was founded as a joint operation between Shenzhen Airlines and two overseas companies in 2007.

## Blind development

"To attract domestic and international investment and boost the local economy, provincial governments have been eager

to establish their own regional airlines and airports," said Xing Yu, planning director of *Global Flying* magazine.

In some cases, their poor plans result in yearly losses in the millions, he said.

Regional airlines provide passenger air service to secondary cities that lack sufficient demand to attract mainline service. They survive as feeder airlines, contracting with a major airline to deliver passengers to the major hubs from surrounding cities. A few, like Henan Airlines, operates under their own brand.

As a central province, Henan has long had a well-developed ground traffic network. To boost air traffic and its image, the Henan government cooperated with Shenzhen Airlines to establish a regional airline in 2007.

Sophisticated administrative tactics were used to get security to turn a blind eye to problems in operation and regional aircraft safety rules, Xing said.

In Xing's opinion, the connection between Henan Airlines and Henan Province is obvious — the name alone says everything when taken in the context of the domestic airline industry. The government's speedy denial of having a hand in administration and investment was even more suspicious.

"The public hadn't even accused the local government of being responsible. Isn't it strange that they were so eager to distance themselves from the airline?" Xing said.

## Regional burdens

Henan Airlines is hardly an isolated case.

One need look no further than

Beijing's Capital Airlines, established this May, for a more local example. Similar dealings have supported the creation of Tianjin Airlines, Chengdu Airlines, Kunming Airlines and Tibet Airlines, as well as another 10 regional airlines founded last year.

But the Yichun crash is more complicated than one province's blind ambition.

The 104-seat E-190 jet that crashed in Yichun was designed only for short-range regional flights between second-tier cities.

Wang Ruyan, a 25-year-old Beijing resident, said the crash has reinforced her determination to fly on large aircrafts only, even if the ticket prices are higher. "I always worry about safety issues when flying on small planes, and this accident has only compounded my worries," she said.

While it is true that the small aircraft may not have been designed for such long hauls, Li Xiaojin, a professor with the Civil Aviation University of China, said the airport may be more to blame.

"Poor night flight capabilities at Lindu airport are a more obvious cause. The pilots have also been found to have made several mistakes," Li said.

China is one of the world's largest aircraft consumer markets. An industry report conducted by Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) in 2009 found that the country needed to increase its regional fleet by 874 jets by 2028.

Embraer, the Brazilian aerospace conglomerate that makes the E-190, has also painted a rosy picture of the China market in the next 20 years. An Embraer marketing report from its Chinese offi-

cial website said that by 2028, China will have a 1,000-strong fleet of short-distance turbine jets with seating capacities ranging from 30 to 120.

Two airlines on the mainland have been Embraer's top clients: Henan Airlines, with its five E-190 jets, and Tianjin Airlines, with a 25-strong fleet. Tianjin Airlines said it plans to expand its fleet to include 60 E-190 jets by the end of 2013.

Tuesday's crash could kill Embraer's expansion plans.

Luo Jie, director of public relations at Embraer, was quick to deflect blame away from the E-190 plane during a Tuesday interview.

In mature aviation markets, such as the US and Europe, regional airlines usually account for 30 and 40 percent of the total civil aviation market, Luo said. In China, regional airlines account for just 5 percent.

If there is a silver lining to the crash, Li said it is the chance for domestic jetmakers to expand in the regional market. "It might be an opportunity to promote domestically-made regional aircrafts, since they have gone many years without any major accidents," he said.

One regional aircraft, the Modern Ark 60 (MA-60), has been produced in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province since 2000.

"The disaster will depress regional airlines' business for a while, but the long-term development will probably go unaffected," he said.

The accident may also push regional airline companies to strengthen their safety management, which would benefit the aviation industry as a whole.

## CEOs wanted for state companies

By Huang Daohen

Nineteen of the country's biggest state-owned companies are opening up their top management positions to global candidates, according to a recruitment advertisement published Monday in major newspapers.

The advertisement, placed by the central organization department of the Chinese Communist Party and the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), is the government's latest effort to raise the competitiveness of its state-owned companies (SOEs).

SASAC is the highest government body under the state council and oversees operations of the country's 129 biggest state-owned corporations. In a notice, the cabinet agency asked candidates from home and abroad to help SOEs become more efficient and profitable.

State-owned companies have hired overseas executives before, but Monday's advertisement was the highest-level recruitment to date.

This time, the government is filling five general manager positions for Dongfeng Motor, China State Construction Engineering, China Travel Service (Hong Kong), State Nuclear Power Technology and Chinatex Corporation, according to the notice.

While many assumed Chinese citizens would be preferred during the recruitment, an officer at the SASAC surmised Meng who answered the phone Tuesday said the recruitment would be fair and equal.

"Every position has its own criteria. Unless it says otherwise, then everybody can apply, be the Chinese citizens or global candidates," Meng said.

Meng said fluent grasp of a foreign language, overseas work experience and familiarity with the management of large SOEs would be the common criteria for the positions.

Such senior management positions used to be directly appointed by the government. But SOEs have found themselves lagging in overseas expansion. The SASAC has been posting similar recruitment drives since 2003.

Meng said the executives recruited in previous campaigns had won high praise within the enterprises.

SASAC currently employs 123 high-ranking managers.

Other positions offered in Monday's advertisement included deputy general managers at China National Administration of Coal Geology, China National Gold Group and China Guangdong Nuclear Power Holding, and other jobs at China Shipping Group, China Resources and China National Building Material Group.



# Safety belt button, a small toy but a huge social problem

By Zhao Hongyi

A seat belt button is becoming popular in China, but for the wrong reasons, experts warn.

This button, which is cheap for drivers to install, can be activated to override a vehicle's safety belt alarm, disabling that nagging beep that doesn't go away until the driver has fastened his or her

seat belt.

The button is designed for all types of vehicles and is sleek in design. At the famous Xiaowuji vehicles spare parts market on East Fourth Ring Road, nearly all outlets sell these buttons. "We have plenty of types and designs," a seller said, "and can sell dozens each weekend."

On Taobao, nearly 30,000 types are

listed, ranging from those costing less than 1 yuan to more than 100 yuan. One seller noted that while drivers should usually wear their seat belt, sometimes it gets annoying to have to do so, especially when stuck in traffic.

All the buttons are manufactured in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province and Guangdong Province.

## Background

### Confused drivers in crowded metropolis

Traffic is becoming a serious problem in China, even on the country's newly built expressways. A recent jam on the Beijing-Tibet Expressway, caused by a suburban toll station in northern Beijing, even attracted the attention of the foreign media.

Police warn that Beijing has 4.5 million registered vehicles and will have more than 7 million by 2015. "By then, the average speed in downtown Beijing will be less than 15 kilometers an hour," police said.

The low speeds in which drivers operate make many think they don't need to fasten their seat belts.

"Think of the speed of driving in downtown Beijing," said Li Fan, an office worker in the Central Business District. "Is it necessary to use the belt?"

But safety experts warn that moving at low speeds doesn't mean drivers can't get hurt. Only the combination of seat belts and airbags can truly protect drivers and front-seat passengers.

Neglecting seat belts is a common habit in Beijing. Most drivers say belts are inconvenient or too hot to use during summer. Some go so far as putting a bag belt on their shoulder to fool police into not pulling them over.

Zhang Yongming, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics, is an exception. He always wears a seat belt, saying, "You only have one life, take care of yourself!"

The professor also cares about other passengers in his car. He has a bassinet basket for his one-year-old son.



The business of selling safety belt button booming.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

## Comment

### Traffic jam nuisance

In big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, traffic jams have been causing headaches for two decades. It's boring to be strapped in your car while stuck in traffic and waiting for green lights. Why should we have to use belts all the time?

— Yang Lin, Beijing office worker

### Safety comes first

Safety is the priority! Car manufacturers provide you the tools and equipment to minimize harm in accidents, but why do we constantly refuse them? Laziness is not a good reason.

— Netizen, bbs.sohu.com

### Creative idea

China is such an amazing country. You can find anything you can imagine, and even some things you can't. Chinese people dare to produce anything. The safety button is actually a creative idea, though it doesn't abide by traffic regulations.

— Mohamad Ali Sekratunga, student from Sri Lanka

### Self-restraint

An individual and a society should have self-restraint and realize what is good and what is bad. The same applies to those who do business — follow the principles and ideas of discipline and morality.

— Jimmy Kingstad, engineer, Beijing

## What did Jackie Chan say?

By Huang Daohen

Action star Jackie Chan's name has translated into big bucks at the box office, but he's not immune to controversy. Chan's recent sympathetic message on Twitter to Filipinos about the hostage crisis in Manila aroused heavy criticism in Hong Kong.

The crisis on August 23 resulted in the deaths of nine Hong Kong residents. Chan expressed grief through his Twitter account: "I come back to HK & I hear terrible news about what happened in the Philippines. A lot of things don't happen to your own country you don't pay attention to."

Then he added in another tweet: "This kind of things always happen around the world ... HK is a place built by a lot of different people. Don't worry! We do not hate!"

Chan's sentiments were lauded by Filipinos. Edwin Lacierda, spokesman for Philippine President Benigno Aquino, was quoted by local media as saying he was grateful and regarded Chan's behavior as "extending friendship" to Filipinos.

However, Chan incited hateful comments among those back home. Some formed an anti-Jackie Chan group on Facebook. "Shut up! You just don't under-



Jackie Chan's careless comments aroused hatred.

Alex/CFP Photo

stand the pain of Hong Kong people. You don't represent Hong Kong," one commenter wrote.

On August 27, Chan clarified his comments and apologized to the people of Hong Kong. Chan said the confusion arose due to an incomplete translation by his American assistant, leading netizens to

think his apology was insincere.

This wasn't the first time Chan's comments have aroused controversy. Last year he complained about the chaotic situation in Hong Kong and Taiwan, saying people there have too much freedom and Chinese people need to be controlled more by the government.

## Comment

### No need to apologize

I don't think Chan needs to apologize to us. We cannot criticize him. He's an adult. As long as it's not against the law, and as long as he accepts the consequences, nobody has the right to criticize him. It's just that Chan said something during an inappropriate moment.

— Lu Enhua, actress

### Speak like a superstar

This is not the first time Chan has aroused hatred because of his careless comments. It seems like he's trying to put some distance between himself [as a person] and his superstar status. He should probably study [his past mistakes] so he stops making comments so unbecoming of someone of his stature.

— Simon Wang, government officer

### Talk less about politics

As a celebrity, Chan has the right to give his opinion about public events, but he should be very careful when talking about political issues. If he really has to, maybe do some research first?

— Felix, engineer from Ireland

# Bringing traditional Chinese medicine to Western practitioners

By Wang Yu

Although it was introduced to the West a long time ago, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) remains an "alternative" solution for Western patients. But TCM has also captured many foreigners' imaginations and lured them to China for further exploration and study.

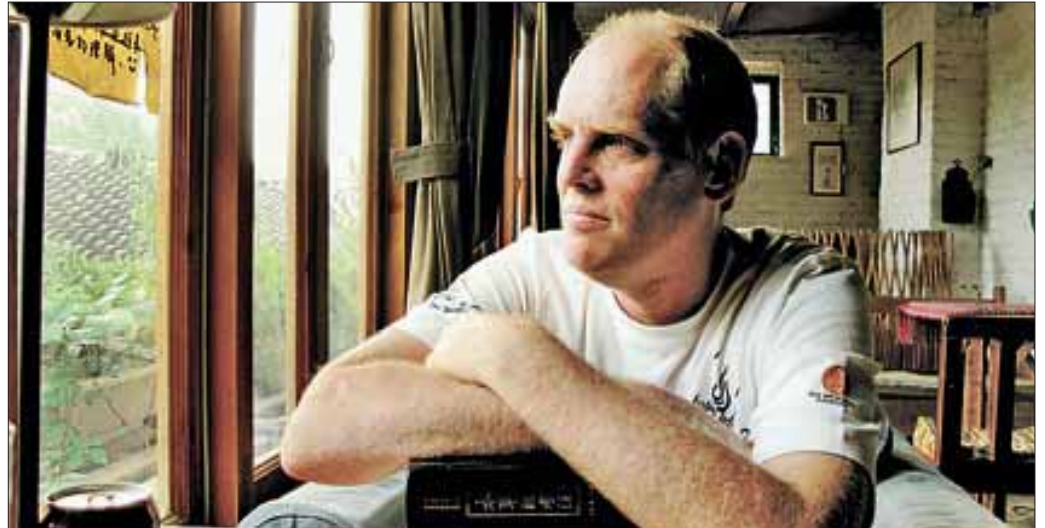
Michael FitzGerald is one of those people. Since arriving in Beijing in 2006, the American doctor has translated several Chinese medicine books into English, including *The Clinical Application of Shang Han Lun Formulas*. His translation covers sections of both herbal medicine and acupuncture.

The 44-year-old began learning Chinese in 1994. However, it was not until he entered the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in San Francisco in 1998 that he embarked on his current career. After graduating in 2002, he passed California's state medical exam and became a licensed acupuncturist.

With an educational background in ethnobotany – the study of the relationship between plants and people – FitzGerald has always preferred living a simple life that is close with nature. He naturally became interested in the connection between ethnobotany and Chinese medicine. He began studying TCM to cure his mother's chronic asthma.

"If you told me Chinese medicine would take 10 to 20 years to learn, I would have been shocked at that time," FitzGerald said.

He jumped in. FitzGerald's first destination was Taiwan Province, where he worked in one of his teacher's clinics from 2002 to 2003 and continued to study



Michael FitzGerald practices Chinese medicine in Beijing.

Photo by Song Nannan

under numerous respected practitioners. His work experience and years of study taught him that China has a long history of medicine that has only been partially uncovered by the West. Differences in language and culture were major barriers.

In 2006, he got the opportunity to go to the mainland to work as a translator for the People's Medical Publishing House in Beijing. He got involved in a project translating 200 Chinese medicine books, but he and his colleague only finished 20 of them.

Eleven months later, FitzGerald returned to Taiwan as his Chinese wife was about to give birth to their first child. But he returned to Beijing last year, drawn by his desire to encounter more forms of TCM.

"Education in the States is very standardized, as it is now in China, but nevertheless there is still an opportunity here in China to learn from a wide variety of practitioners with an equally wide variety of styles," FitzGerald said.

FitzGerald is currently a visiting scholar at the Chinese Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences and often gives introductory lessons on Chinese medicine at the Chinese Culture Center at Liangmaqiao. Every week he studies with an acupuncturist and an experienced herbalist.

One of his recent projects is a translation of the *Bencao Jing* (Compendium of Materia Medica) from classical Chinese, which is hard to read even for native speakers. After

years of translation, FitzGerald can now understand most of this archaic language.

"Translation is like a relationship. On one hand I love it but at the same time, it is always painful to find the best word that matches the medical term in Chinese," he said. "Translating traditional text is like archaeology: you find a bone, you dust it and show people what it looks like, and that can sometimes be confusing."

"But I think I'm quite qualified now to interpret things and make them clear. I'm doing that because I plan to give my translations to people in clinics so they can diagnose others."

FitzGerald said that though the Western mainstream tends to accept Chinese medicine, no one has done a thorough analysis of

TCM, which can at times be like an art. He is currently preparing to start a Chinese medicine journal, which he hopes can explain Chinese medicine in a new way to Western readers.

FitzGerald used to see a Chinese doctor in Taiwan about back problems, and the doctor never asked for money. The Chinese man was once told to use his skills to help people, and FitzGerald admired his effort.

"There used to be a friend who told me to take Chinese medicine as a hobby, and I really like that idea: treat people two days a week, don't worry about the money; think of the treatment as a gift to the people," FitzGerald said. "I'll make money in other ways, like painting works of art."



Lydia La Rivière Zijdell is an Aikido expert who performed as part of the Sportaccord Combat Games on Tuesday at China Agriculture University.

Photo by Sun Nan/CFP

## Disabled Dutch woman brings Aikido spirit to Beijing

By Chu Meng

Martial arts are supposed to display the physical beauty of bodies in motion. Lydia La Rivière Zijdell, a disabled Dutch woman, is proving that this applies even for those in wheelchairs.

Zijdell, 59, performed Tuesday at the first annual Sportaccord Combat Games at Beijings China Agriculture University. She is a specialist at Aikido, a Japanese martial art often translated as "the way of harmonious spirit."

A car accident in the early 1980s left Zijdell disabled, but she used the change to launch a career in disability services. She became a disability activist and received a master's degree in psychotherapy and disability studies from the UK.

Today, Zijdell is the highest ranked wheelchair martial artist in the world, holding a third-degree black belt in karate and

first-degree black belt in Aikido. She is also a tennis player and long-distance wheeler.

When asked about the spirit of Aikido, Zijdell spoke about her understanding of martial arts in general. "The strongest person is one that does not fight," she said, pointing out that the original aim of the Combat Games is to spread the message of martial arts to create a peaceful world.

"Those who rely on physical strength are doomed to be on the receiving end [of violence]," Zijdell said. "I have already learned that the Chinese character for martial arts, *wu*, was created in the same manner as a character that means 'stop fighting.'"

Zijdell is frequently asked to speak at conferences and academic institutions around the world because of her expertise in gender and disability issues. As an international consultant,

she works for a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the International Paralympic Committee.

Over the past 20 years, Zijdell has taught self-defense to more than 10,000 disabled women worldwide as part of martial arts and empowerment training. Under her guidance, hundreds of international martial arts teachers have learned how to teach disabled people.

Her efforts have given coaches and trainers insight on how to integrate the disabled into mainstream sports activities. Her latest efforts have focused on countries in Africa and Asia.

Zijdell also has a longstanding political career. In addition to participating in local politics, she is the founder and chair of the European Disability Forum's Standing Committee for disabled women, which is a branch under the EU.





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# Humorous performance aims to popularize books



The second Literary Death Match, a humorous literature-reading competition, was held at The Bookworm Tuesday night. Photo by Liang Meilan

By Liang Meilan

The Bookworm became the Beijing literati's equivalent of a Roman coliseum Tuesday as it hosted the second Literary Death Match, a humorous literature-reading competition.

The event aims to "make literature a part of pop culture again, by exploring innovative ways to present text off the page," said Todd Zuniga, co-organizer of the competition and editor of New York City literary magazine *Optium*.

"It (literature) has sort of been pushed back by television, film and now the Internet. What I wanted to do was make people come out and celebrate literature in a really exciting way,"

Zuniga said.

The Match's four contestants – Susan Barker from the UK and China-based Mark Kitto, John Leary and James Palmer – had seven minutes to perform a piece and wow the audience and judges.

Unlike the first Match, which centered on sexual matters, this week's competition covered subjects as diverse as death, the cultural differences between Mongolian and Han Chinese and the character of Shanghai.

Leary, a writer living in Shanghai who presented a stream-of-consciousness piece about death, emerged the champion. Gady Epstein, one of the three judges, described it as "opera, Giselle

Knowles, Jimmy Carter, lesbian sex and a marriage to Beyonce, all in one presentation."

To audiences, the event meant forming closer bonds with people in Beijing's literature community. "I came to support my friend who was one of the contestants," said Lynne Smith, an expat from the US. "But now I know six more writers whose works I find interesting."

Beijing was the 24th city to host the Literary Death Match, which is held regularly in major metropolises such as New York City, San Francisco, London, Paris and Montreal. Zuniga said the organizers are just getting warmed up and that they are hoping to bring the event to

Shanghai next month.

Zuniga also said they are planning a larger, bilingual match in Beijing to get more people involved. "I think we can have at least one round of Chinese writers and another round of English writers," he said.

"It is really exciting to think about what that would mean to the domestic literary community, because China has such a huge population of literature lovers and experts," he said.

The Match is apparently not going to stop at book shops. "Audiences in the US will see a TV show on the Literary Death Match next year. And the show will hopefully go online shortly after," he said.

## Film festival on outdoors sports returns in October

By Wang Yu

Outdoor lovers' favorite film festival returns to China next month with screenings in Beijing, Shanghai and Yangshuo, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Organizers of the festival said Monday that it will be the first time Banff Mountain Film Festival's documentaries will be shown in commercial cinemas in China.

Banff, which features the best short films and documentaries on mountaineering, outdoor sports and the environment, will screen 20 films, four of which were domestically produced.

Gao Feng, director of Central News Documentary Films and co-organizer of the event, said the festival will be a great chance to continue building the documentary scene in China.

Lu Chuan, director of the war film *Nanjing, Nanjing*, said he was amazed at some of this year's Chinese entries. "I watched all the films that will be shown in China and there was one called *Impossible Climb*, which really moved me. It's about a climber who continues to challenge a mountain even

though he once fell from 30 meters. I think that represents true bravery," said Lu, who has won a Banff award for *Kekexili*, a film about protecting Tibetan antelope.

Another film to watch out for is *Solo*, a documentary about Andrew McAuley, who in 2007 set out to become the first person to kayak from Australia to New Zealand.

"He spent more than 30 days at sea and almost died by the time he reached dry land," said Qian Haiying, project manager of Banff's China leg. "At first I thought this might scare the audience, but later realized McAuley's spirit can encourage people to be more adventurous," she said, adding that the film almost didn't make the cut because of her initial fears.

Mark Steven Kruger, minister counsellor of the Canadian Embassy, said the festival is a good chance to promote cultural communication between China and Canada.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival was launched in 1976 in Banff, Alberta.



The Banff Mountain Film Festival will bring exciting sports documentaries to commercial cinemas next month.

Photo provided by Banff Mountain Film Festival

## Event

### Lecture by top international shoe designer

Georgina Goodman and her husband BJ Cunningham founded the fashion brand Georgina Goodman in 2002, which has since made a mark in the shoe design business. The couple will share their experience in building their brand, as well as their views on creating fashion, in this lecture sponsored by the British Council.

Where: Auditorium of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, A2 Yinghua Dong Jie, Chaoyang District

When: September 3, 6:30 pm

Tel: 6421 6141

Cost: Free

### Slow food Saturday

The Slow Food Beijing Convivium gives city dwellers a chance to enjoy a day of natural food and fun at the Great Wall. Besides cycling, hiking and walking around the neighboring Great Wall, attendees will taste a variety of dishes made from the freshest local ingredients such as brown sugar sorghum dumplings, teppanyaki trout, wild vegetable dishes and home-made ice creams.

Where: The Roadhouse at Mutianyu, 12 Mutianyu Village, Huairou District

When: September 4, 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 13810521254

Cost: Foods cost 5 to 20 yuan, bus ride 80 yuan round-trip

### FunGym Opening

FunGym, a chain of children's gyms based in Canada, will open its first store in Beijing on Sunday with free roller-skating lessons, free climbing classes and a football friendship game. The gym features programs and facilities to help children develop not just their physical but also their cognitive, emotional and social skills. Regular classes start on September 13.

Where: Ole Sports Center Beijing, 5 Shimencun Lu, Baiziwan Qiao Dong, Chaoyang District

When: September 5, 9 am – 2:30 pm

Tel: 6776 4705

Cost: Free

### Gifted child evaluation

The China Trade Commission and Whiz Kids International Testing Center are giving parents a chance to find out for free whether they have "gifted children." It is open to children between the ages of 4 and 7. The one-hour evaluation includes observing children in a special play setting, where they act out roles and solve a variety of problems. Four visiting European experts will conduct the evaluation, which normally costs 3,500 yuan.

Where: Whiz Kids International Testing Center, Room 700, 11 Wanliu Dong Lu, Haidian District

When: Daily, ends September 30, 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 8255 1838

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)



# Explore 'water birth' for less painful deliveries



Giving birth in the water can be less stressful and painful.

Photo by Zhang Yifei/CFP

By Annie Wei

Pregnant women who want to deliver naturally but are fearful of the pain can explore "water birth" - giving birth in a tub of warm water, which is supposed to be less stressful for both mother and child.

China had its first recorded water birth in 2003, but the practice has not caught on as most women still prefer the familiarity of the hospital delivery bed. "Water birth crossed my mind before I gave birth to my son, but there just was not enough information available," says Cui Hui, whose son is now 2 years old.

Fan Qingbo, a gynecologist at Peking Union Medical College Hospital, says water birth has

not gained traction in China due to two major factors.

First, it is a service that is offered only in the country's leading hospitals, which have huge clientele and can afford the special water-birthing equipment and their maintenance.

Second, it is not suitable for first-time mothers, and the majority of Chinese women experience childbirth only once because of the country's family planning policy. First babies usually take much longer to come out, and being immersed in water during the long hours of labor makes it difficult to monitor the infants' vital signs, not to mention that it increases the probability of infection in the mother.

Fan says water births have been proven to be less painful than other birthing methods but that its claims to smarter infants, shorter labor and less trauma to the birth canal are not backed up by scientific data.

Yu Jude, a birthing expert with the Shanghai Obstetrics and Gynecologic Committee, advises mothers-to-be considering water birth to thoroughly discuss this option with their gynecologist. A woman who is either too young or too old, or someone who has undergone abortion, is not a good candidate.

The final decision on whether a woman can proceed with water birth can only be made a week before her delivery date, Yu says, explaining that the infant should

weigh around 3 kilograms for it to be safe.

The cost of water birth in China is higher than giving birth on a hospital bed. The price ranges from a couple of thousand to as much as 100,000 yuan. Private hospitals are also offering the service. Below are two hospitals where mothers-to-be can start their research.

**Qinghua University Yuquan Hospital**

Where: 5 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan District  
Tel: 8825 7755

**Antai Hospital**

Where: Building 18, 1 Xinghecheng, Jiayuan Lu, Fengtai District  
Tel: 6753 7758 or 6753 7768

**ASK** Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

I've just returned from a trip to North Korea, where I fell in love with the food there. I heard that some North Koreans have opened restaurants in Beijing. Can you recommend one that also holds song and dance performances?

Try visiting Yinpanguan Restaurant, a reputable chain that is based in the North Korean capital Pyongyang. Most of its ingredients are shipped from the North, which guarantees the dishes' authentic taste, but are reasonably priced. You can find it on 11 Fangcaodi Xi Jie, Chaoyang District (Tel. 6581 8603).

I'm a collector of old-movie posters, but my hobby has suffered since I moved to Beijing. I've checked out numerous video shops, but no one has the posters I want. Do you have any leads?

Check out Kubrick Book Store at the Museum of Modern Art's (MOMA) Broadway Cinematheque. There you can also find posters of classic movies, most of which are imported from Japan. It is located at MOMA's Building T4, North area, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng District (Tel. 8438 8202).

I'm new in town and still have not gotten used to the local food. I've been eating McDonald's almost every day. I'd be happier with Burger King if I can only find a store in town.

There is only one Burger King store in Beijing and it is located at Terminal 3 of the Capital International Airport. It does not do home deliveries. A second branch is being planned at U-Town Plaza in Chaoyangmen, Dongcheng District. You can call the building management at 8561 1600 for more information. In the mean time, unless you're willing to travel half an hour by subway or car to the airport every day, we suggest trying harder to appreciate local food.

(By Liang Meilan)

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Photos provided by Jiangzhou Drum Troupe

Time has left deep furrows in Wang Qin'an's face. The lines show even more as the 66-year-old recounts 22 years of hardship since founding his Shanxi Jiangzhou Drum Troupe.

As a pioneer of mass folk drum performance, Wang has pushed the art to a new level, extending its life by putting it on the world stage.

Jiangzhou is the birthplace of gong and drum music in China. Its history of drum performance stretches back thousands of years, and the people of Shanxi grow up with the steady beat of indigenous folk music.

According to the annals of Jinagzhou County, drum performances were held throughout the year, but most often around harvests and festivals.

As the director of the local culture museum, Wang collected drum scores and formed a group of some 20 folk artisans from the villages in 1988.

During rehearsals, these peasants gathered in a town many miles from their home and carried bags of wheat for food. They lived in empty schoolrooms and practiced 10 hours a day.

At the beginning, the troupe could not support its members. They did not have enough to eat and took on debts, even though they performed at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing the first year after its establishment.

At the edge of bankruptcy, Wang made the tough decision to leave China and tour the world's biggest cities.

In 2000, Wang and his troupe found their way to Shanghai. Most of the members had left their families behind, seeing them only once a year.

Shanghai was in a time of transformation, and to take advantage of the opportunity to truly establish themselves, Wang began imposing ever stricter requirements on his members.

"Peak performance is our lifeline. Any performance that is not a sensation is a failure. Unless we can perform in a city's best theater, then we can't say we performed there," Wang said.

One day, before they performed for Cypress Heights Villas, the manager who had promised 3,000 yuan for one performance tried to haggle for a lower price. But after the show, the manager asked them to give another performance.

When they discussed the fees for the encore, the troupe's accountant casually threw out 20,000 yuan as a number. They were shocked when the manager agreed immediately. "He told me our performance was worth that much," Wang said.

All the members undertook strict training

and stood firm on Shanghai's stage.

The average profit for each performance has grown from 2,000 yuan in 2000 to 4,000 yuan in 2007. The annual income grew from 430,000 yuan to 1.6 million yuan in 2007. In only seven years, the troupe paid off its debt of 600,000 yuan.

The troupe has taken part in many festivals, such as the Shanxi International Drum and Gong Festival. It won many prizes at the Second National Folk Music and Dance Competition and the gold medal four separate years at the National Star Awards in China for excellence in drumming and percussive performance.

The group has toured Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea.

Its efforts to popularize the ancient beats of Jiangzhou have resulted in its being declared by UNESCO as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2002.

Everything seems to have gone smoothly for the troupe, but Wang still worries about the future of the drum.

Most current members are younger than 20 and come from the villages. The youngest drummer is 13.

But these career drummers can only play for several years. "It takes two years to cultivate a professional drummer in our troupe. Several years later, these performers will leave our troupe. Our reserves are not enough," Wang said.

Beijing's show, *Female Warriors of the Yang Family*, will usher in a new era for the troupe. The artists will tell a story by beating drums without dialogue.

Li Xiao, 20, will play the lead role in Beijing's show. While shy offstage, Li quickly assumes the role of the female general as soon as the curtain opens. "The most difficult part is interpreting the role's sorrow," she said.

All the members train for four months to know how to interpret the roles they play.

The performance is being organized with the help of several stage directors who participated in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Olympic Games.

"At first, the young performers could not accept our ideas. The girl playing She Taijun, a 100-year-old female general, cried for several days because she refused to wear makeup. She thought drummers have no need for it," Xiao Xiangrong, chief director of the show, said.

But Xiao refused to use professional dancers or actors to replace the girl. "I was moved by Wang's persistence in the past two decades. I hope these professional drummers can become all-round actors. It would ensure they have more options available in the future," he said.

# Beats of Artist's persistence

By He Jianwei

Percussion instruments are the oldest of any traditional instrument in China.

The earliest archaeological evidence of Chinese percussion music was discovered in Shanxi Province, where massive drums were made to celebrate the triumph of Shimin's army during Tang Dynasty (618-907). Drumming in Shanxi Province can be dated back centuries earlier to Xinjiang County, the ancient name of Jiangzhou.

## The plot

During the reign of Emperor Renzong (1010-1063) in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), a poet

the story begins with the death of Yang Zongbao, grandson of She Taijun, a famous woman

Western Xia. News of his death reaches the Yang Family while they are preparing to celebrate

Without hesitation, She Taijun requests permission from the emperor to lead an army, in

Guiting, Zongbao's wife and Wenguang's mother. Being unfamiliar with the terrain, the Yang

them a secret route leading to the rear of the enemy's camp.



"Peak performance is our lifeline. Any performance that is not a sensation is a failure. Unless we can perform in a city's best theater, then we can't say we performed there."





# the land e saves ethnic heritage

in present-day Shanxi Province.

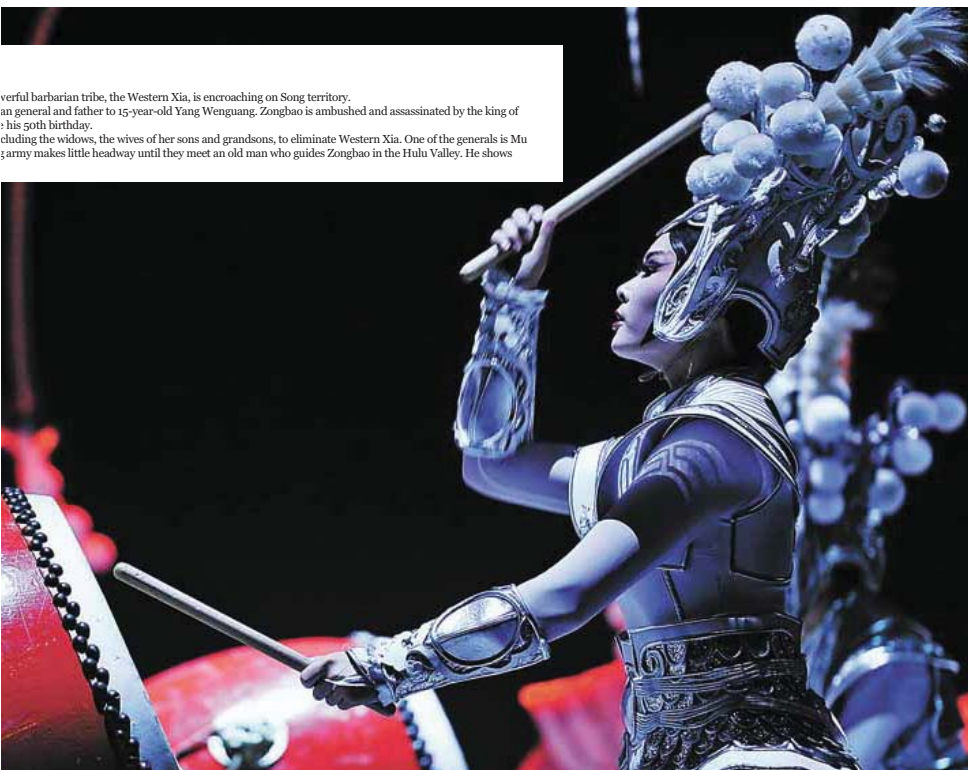
Since 1988, the former director of Xinjiang Culture Museum has been taking his troupe of drumming villagers on tours of world stages, showing both classical culture and an endangered heritage.

The troupe, which combines ancient drumming with modern theatrics, will soon be taking the stage in Beijing to present their new art.



powerful barbarian tribe, the Western Xia, is encroaching on Song territory. A general and father to 15-year-old Yang Wenguang, Zongbao is ambushed and assassinated by the king of the Western Xia on his 50th birthday.

The king orders the widows, the wives of her sons and grandsons, to eliminate Western Xia. One of the generals is Mu Zongbao, who makes little headway until they meet an old man who guides Zongbao in the Hulu Valley. He shows



## Female Warriors of the Yang Family

By Shanxi Jiangzhou Drum Troupe

Where: Great Hall of the People, west side

of Tian'anmen Square, Xicheng District

When: September 19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 5166 0677



# Heart of ice

Andrew Miller finds a way to continue in his novels

“My novels are love letters to the world. A lot of what motivated me to write is a feeling of astonishment and a love for the extraordinary things in life. Darkness and anxiety exist in my work, and not by my choosing. You cannot separate one from the other.

By He Jianwei

“What does the world need most – a good, ordinary man, or one who is outstanding, albeit with a heart of ice?”

The question is at the heart of UK novelist Andrew Miller’s first book, *Ingenious Pain*, published in 1997. It brought him three awards, including the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and Italian Grinzane Cavour Prize.

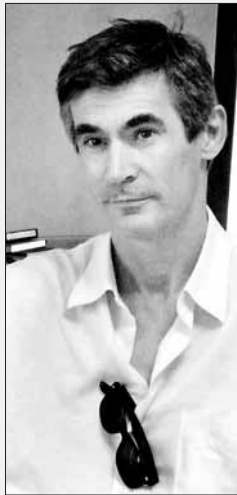
Miller visited Beijing to meet Chinese writers during the Beijing International Book Fair this week. Jiangxi Education Publishing House is publishing the first Chinese edition of his novel.

Wearing traditional Chinese black cloth shoes, Miller, 50, looked more like a *hutong* resident than a world traveler.

“When I started writing, I believe very much in the importance of writing as a way to change lives,” he said. “My first writing hero was D. H. Lawrence. He was interested in transformation, both personal and social. For me, my politics was literature. I didn’t involve myself in politics. My usefulness is to share the thought in literature that not everybody does.”

Among his five novels, three deal with history – two in the 18th century and one during World War II. His latest book, completed last month, is again a historical novel about the French Revolution.

He grew up in Bath, a city surrounded by 18th century



Andrew Miller  
Photo by He Jianwei

architecture.

“History always excited my imagination,” Miller said. “As a young boy, I loved classical history and I used [to pretend] to be a Roman soldier. I think people feel history is remote. Yet it is the unbroken line between what has happened and what is happening.”

His novels explore how flawed, vulnerable, but basically decent, people are as they try to survive in difficult times.

“Tragic situations, often in a very unsettling way, have a kind of element of low comedy to them – some elements like

farce are attached to it somehow. I do like to blend tragedy and comedy,” he said. “With the reviewers, it is interesting to see those who pick up the humor and those who completely don’t get it.”

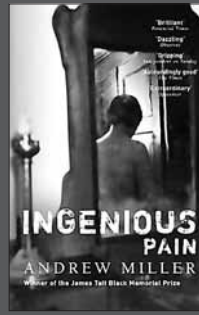
In *Ingenious Pain*, the duel between James Dyer and a doctor whose wife has an affair with Dyer, combines comedy with the disturbing. Dyer shoots off the man’s nose and designs and fits a prosthetic replacement made of polished ivory, attached to a pair of spectacles. Because Dyer saves his life, the man is grateful and bears Dyer no ill will.

Miller said his responsibility in writing is to explore human nature, such as darkness and anxiety.

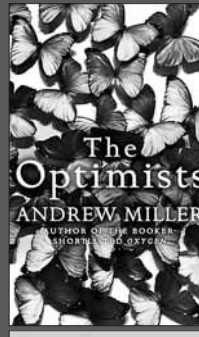
“My novels are love letters to the world. A lot of what motivated me to write is a feeling of astonishment and a love for the extraordinary things in life,” he said. “Darkness and anxiety exist in my work, and not by my choosing. You cannot separate one from the other. [Even my] book called *The Optimists* is not optimistic at all.”

This book is about a massacre in Central Africa. The main character is a photojournalist who has witnessed a massacre so terrible it overwhelms his capacity to respond to the world in any normal fashion.

“I hope if I focus too much on the darkness then I can correct it,” he said. “I hope my books can celebrate the wonder and beauty of being here, and a mystery and enigma of being us.”



ANDREW MILLER  
CASANOVA



## Books by Andrew Miller

**Ingenious Pain**

352pp, Mariner Books, \$19  
Conceived during a rape on a frozen river bank and raised in a village in Britain, James Dyer is born unable to feel pain. He grows up a freak of nature during the 18th century enlightenment to become a brilliant but heartless surgeon. En route to St. Petersburg to inoculate the Empress Catherine against smallpox, he meets a strange woman with supernatural healing powers who introduces him to pain. Driven mad by the shock, he returns to London and the Bethlem hospital for the insane.

**Casanova**

279pp, Sceptre, \$7.99  
Giacomo Casanova arrives in England in the summer of 1763, seeking a respite from his restless travels and liaisons. But the lure of company proves too hard to resist and the dazzlingly pretty face of young Marie Charpillon even harder. Casanova’s pursuit of this elusive bewitcher drives him from exhilaration to despair and to attempt to reinvent himself in the roles of laborer, writer and country squire.

**Oxygen**

352pp, Mariner Books, \$14  
It is the summer of 1997, and Alec Valentine is returning to England to care for his ailing mother, Alice: a task that only reinforces his deep sense of inadequacy. In San Francisco, his older brother Larry prepares to come home as well, preoccupied with an acting career that is sliding toward sleaze and a marriage that is faltering. In Paris, on the other hand, the Hungarian playwright Laszlo Lazar seems to have it all – critical acclaim, a loving boyfriend, and a close circle of friends – yet he is haunted by guilt and tragedy. The time has come for each to assess his turns taken and opportunities missed.

**The Optimists**

324pp, Mariner Books, \$14  
Clem Glass was a successful photojournalist, firm in the belief that photographs could capture truth and beauty, until he went to Africa and witnessed the aftermath of genocide. Glass returns to London with his faith in human nature shattered and his life derailed. Nothing – work, love and sex – can rouse his interest and no other outlook can restore his faith.

**One Morning Like a Bird**

373pp, Sceptre, \$16.80  
It is 1940 and Japan is at war with China. Yuji Takano clings to the life he has made for himself as a young poet – the company of his friends, the monthly meetings of the French Club at Monsieur Feneon’s house, the days of writing and contemplation made possible by an allowance from his father, a professor at Tokyo’s elite Imperial University. But the world is closing in on Yuji. His father is disgraced, his allowance is scrapped and the threat of conscription is coming ever closer.

## London Book Fair focuses on Chinese market

By He Jianwei

The London Book Fair 2012 is only a few years away, and already China will be its market focus and guest of honor.

“It is a good opportunity for more English editions of Chinese books to enter the English-speaking market,” said Zhang Fuhai, director of the Foreign Exchange and

Cooperation Department at General Administration of Press and Publication (GAPP) on Monday.

About 25 percent of the books it publishes every year are in English, and more than 10,000 Chinese books have been translated into English in recent years, Zhang said.

The London Book Fair

Market Focus initiative is a key opportunity for UK and international publishers to find new business partnerships.

“China has over 600 publishers and it is the largest market at the moment,” Alistair Burtenshaw, exhibition director of the London Book Fair, said. “It provides fascinating business opportu-

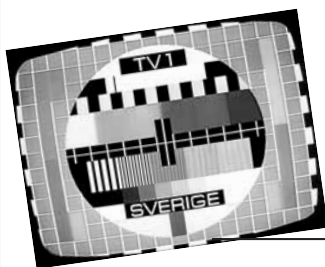
nities in almost all sectors, and that’s absolutely the case in publishing.”

The London Book Fair was established by the British Industrial and Trade Fair Corp. in 1971. It is the second largest international trade fair for books and copyrights after the Frankfurt Book Fair, and is the most important event in

Europe’s publication circles every spring.

The London fair will be China’s sixth appearance as the guest of honor at an international book fair, after the Moscow Book Fair in 2007, Seoul Book Fair in 2008, Frankfurt Book Fair in 2009, Thessaloniki Book fair this year and Cairo Book Fair next year.





# Netizens sub the best of the BBC

By Wang Yu

American TV series have enjoyed a strong fanbase in China for the last six years despite very few having aired on Chinese television. But many viewers say these staples of water-cooler chatter are getting boring.

*Prison Break* went out with a whimper; *Lost*'s ending made no sense; and the plots of *Lie to Me* are getting repetitive. General disappointment with big-budget US productions is leading many Chinese fans to discover the BBC.

But *Dr. Who* may have a tough time penetrating China.

Whereas American culture has already become part of the global mainstream, British culture – and accents – may be difficult for many viewers to accept.

When coworkers banter about *The Big Bang Theory* – China's current favorite US sitcom – web editor Charlotte Liu feels left out.

"The acting is good, the idea is creative and the characters are funny. But I've been watching American TV since *Friends*, and the humor is nothing new. The episodes are always really predictable, so I quit watching after the first season," Liu says.

Her current favorite is *The IT Crowd*, a British comedy, or "Brit-com," airing on Channel 4 in six-episode seasons. The series tells the stories of a big company's IT department run by two nerds and a tech-clueless female director. The fourth season was released in July, two years after the last season.

"My friend recommended the series to me, and I immediately fell in love with the characters. US sitcoms rely on silly dialogue whereas British series win with their well-made plots. Usually there are at least three storylines per episode and they cross over often," Liu says.

"British humor is also different – you have to know the background to appreciate who the script writers are trying to poke fun at," Liu says.

*The Big Bang Theory* and *The IT Crowd* are currently vying for the title of China's most popular sitcom, even though neither has been broadcast in the country. Newer series such as the BBC's *Sherlock* – a Holmes story set in modern London – have received over 12,000 ratings on Douban's movie page.

"I think Chinese people used to view the BBC as one of the most serious TV stations in the world. We used to listen to BBC News to learn English and such news is always about the economy or politics. It is interesting to see how its images is changing," says Daniel Zhu, a TV director.

"Like British movies, each of the TV series has its own style and interprets the world differently. *Skins*, for example, breaks open the reality of life on the streets with its portrayal of British teens. There is love and hate, drug-taking and shocking sexual relationships. Yet the costumes are elegant and the soundtracks are tracks by young British bands," says Twiggy Song, a fashion editor.

Without authorization, the Internet is still the only channel for Chinese viewers to watch British TV series. Subtitle groups composed of netizen volunteers play an essential role in the production chain – but

few of them approach British titles with the same enthusiasm as they do Hollywood productions.

Ragbear group is one of the few subbers involved in the British scene. Established in 2007, the team cut its teeth on the weekly competition to be the first to translate *Prison Break*. Today it is translating *Skins*.

During July, when *The IT Crowd* was airing, Ragbear released subtitle files one day after the episode was issued in the UK. It was hardly record-setting compared to the seven-hour record set by the competing YYET, but their subtitles have been essential to viewers who stumble on British accents.

Some of the more popular series have caught the attention of Chinese TV producers. *Office Hip-Hop Quartet*, an online independent series, pillaged *The IT Crowd*'s first episode for its plot ideas.

"But most viewers can't recognize the plagiarism since British TV is such a niche interest," Liu says.

That may change as more fans look for creativity first and the chance to be exposed to another culture, Liu says.

## Chinese fans' top picks



### Skins

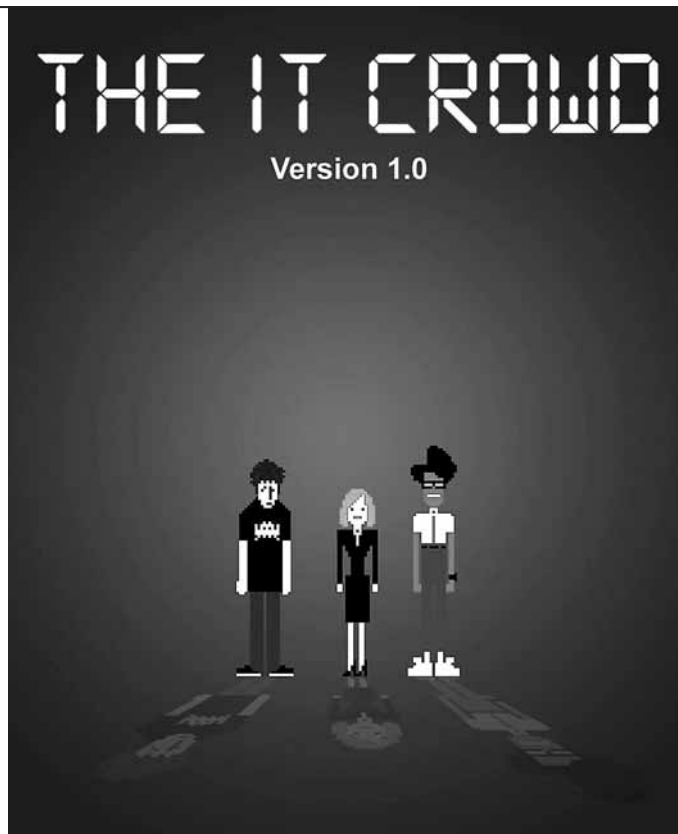
The series tells a story of a group of teenagers in Bristol, South West England. The controversial plot explores dysfunctional families, mental illnesses such as eating disorders, sexual orientation, substance abuse and death. The show was created by father and son television writers Bryan Elsley and Jamie Brittain for Company Pictures and premiered on E4 on January 25, 2007.

The cast is replaced entirely every two series. It was the first group of characters that made the deepest impression on young Chinese viewers.

### Merlin

The show began airing on BBC 1 in September 2008. It is based on the Arthurian legends of the mythical wizard Merlin and his relationship with Prince Arthur, but differs from traditional versions of the legend in many ways in its teenage portrayal. The concept for *Merlin* was influenced by the American show *Smallville*, which is about the early years of Superman.

The young and good-looking actor has many female fans in China.



## The IT Crowd

Set in the London offices of the fictional corporation Reynholm Industries, *The IT Crowd* follows three staff members of an IT department: two geeky technicians, a genius named Moss and the work-shy Roy and their boss Jen, the department's relationship manager who knows nothing about IT.

The show has won a series of awards including awards from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), bestowed by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

### Black Books

*Black Books* is a BAFTA award-winning show created by Dylan Moran and Graham Linehan; it first aired on Channel 4 from 2000

to 2004. The show stars Moran, Bill Bailey and Tamsin Greig and follows the lives of the hostile and belligerent owner of "Black Books," Bernard Black, his enthusiastic assistant Manny Bianco and their neurotic friend Fran Katzenjammer.



### Sherlock

Since Guy Ritchie's movie last year, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson broke the boundary of the traditional partner relationship. BBC's new series continues this trend. With only three episodes (90 minutes each) in the first season, the detective story set in modern London has already been popular with China's female viewers.





Zuczug store

# Zuczug – colorful and comfy fabric



Imitation of Dries Van Noten, 400 yuan

## Autumn shoes and handbags

By Annie Wei

When Beijing is sunny, yet it's dry and comfortable to walk around, you know the end of summer is near. For stores, that means the return of fur boots and dark leather bags.

Stores have begun stocking their fall collections. Comfoot Shoes, a small store on the first floor of a residential building 20 meters north of The Place, has established a reputation for carrying international brands and high-quality imitations.

One can find brands like Miu Miu, Gucci, Mickael Kors, Bebe and Jennifer Modò here, and imitation Chloés, Bottega Veneta and Mulberry handbags at prices from 200 yuan to more than 1,000 yuan. Compared to other stores that claim (however dubiously) their products are directly from the factories, Comfoot's shoes and handbags do seem to have better stitching and a better look. Many styles have only one pair in limited sizes.

The good news is 300 to 400 new items will arrive within the week.

### Comfoot shoes

Where: Building 18, 20 meters north of The Place, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 7 pm  
Tel: 6591 5484



Imitation of Marni, 560 yuan



Blue coat, 1,550 yuan, and bag, 795 yuan



By Annie Wei

Sanlitun Village North has finally begun attracting customers now that new stores have opened. One recent example is Zuczug, a local designer brand established by Shanghai designer Wang Yiyang in 2002, which launched its early fall collection last week.

Zuczug has evolved through the years, but its core style remains simple, with emphasis on flowing cut lines. Even though it's diversified somewhat, its target group remains the niche market of women who are independent and mature, with a taste for simple but elegant designs.

Zuczug is known for being meticulous. This is evident in the fall collection, which features many looks with overlapping patterns and artistic designs. The main colors are vivid green and sky blue, all very bright.

Wang has said before that the beauty of the clothes is not the key. Rather, designs must reflect and accentuate the inner charm of the wearer. He has said that intelligent and kind women are the most attractive, and he designs thusly for them.

The name Zuczug does not have a specific meaning.

### ZucZug

Where: B1, Sanlitun Village North, 19, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 8 pm

Tel: N/A  
Website: zuczug.com

Green jacket, 1,350 yuan;  
jeans, 1,250 yuan;  
leather bag, 2,250 yuan

Photos provided by Zuczug



Spirulina, 835 yuan (left) and organic honey, 99 yuan Photos by Ding Chunhan

## Quality health-care products

By Annie Wei

The increasing demand for health supplements has led to every local pharmacy, supermarket and department store packing their shelves with a selection of vitamins, herbal medicines and related products. With so many choices, one may feel quite overwhelmed – especially when there are too many even for the stores' staff to keep straight.

But the World Health Store, owned by Australian Drew Campbell, is a nice alternative. Customers have just as many choices, but the store's staff members are all trained nutritionists or have sports backgrounds and can help customers find exactly what they need.

Ivy Leung, the store's marketing director, said their most popular product was a water ionizer (6,850 yuan) that filters harmful particles out of tap water and neutralizes its pH level. Related products like shower filters (365 yuan), which last a full year, are also nice.

The store has a wide collection of imported health supplements from Lifestream International, a New Zealand brand. Its Bioactive Spirulina, at 835 yuan, is not cheap, but it's "nature's richest food" for its ability to detoxify heavy metals, Leung said. "You no longer need to take multivitamins."

People who sit in front of computers or other monitors all day and suffer from dry eyes can try the blackcurrant extracts (395 yuan for 90 capsules).

Shoppers can also find essential oil products here: Touch of Nature is the store's in-house brand, with 57 different products ranging from 126 yuan to more than 1,000 yuan. Ingredients come from different places, such as Provence, France (lavender), Bulgaria (roses) and Australia (tea trees). They are processed at local factories to reduce their cost, Leung said.

The store also sells many organic products, including many from fair-trade Shangri-La farms, like honey (99 yuan), various nuts and seeds like flaxseed (21 yuan for 400 grams) and soap nuts (35 yuan) from other local suppliers.

Beijing Today recommends the store's Shungit protection plate (59 yuan), a small black plate that attaches to the back of your cell phone that reportedly can block up to 97 percent of your phone's harmful electromagnetic radiation without affecting the sound quality.

### World Health Store

Where: R2152, 1st floor of section A, north tower, Soho Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

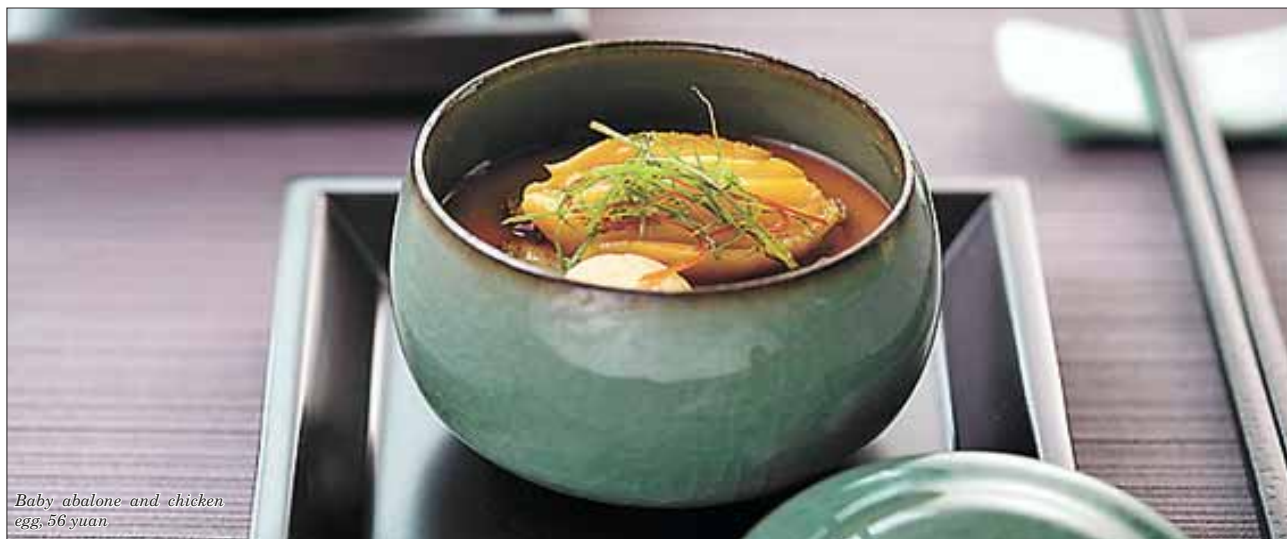
Open: 10:30 am – 8 pm Monday to Friday; 11 am – 7:30 pm on weekends  
Tel: 5900 2209



# Newly opened Hangzhou flavors

By Annie Wei

Hangzhou is a beautiful city, with its famous West Lake and evergreens, and it has a beautiful cuisine to match – and we're not talking about your neighborhood *baozi* place. *Beijing Today* is happy to report that two Hangzhou restaurants recently opened in Beijing. We sent two reporters to scope them out.



Baby abalone and chicken egg, 56 yuan.

## New restaurant embodies Chinese fairy tale

**New**

By Felix Gan

Every Chinese is familiar with the story of *Madam White Snake*. A thousand years ago, a young man saved a white snake, which turned into a beautiful lady and married the man's great grandson to express her thanks. The lucky man she married was called Xu Xian.

And now we have Xu Xian Restaurant. As the legend was set in Hangzhou, the restaurant focuses on the flavors of Shanghai and Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces.

Opened at the end of July, this restaurant quickly attracted celebrities. It has since been nicknamed the "star restaurant," as on any given night a diva like Zhou Xun or Faye Wong just might drop by.

Braised chicken and pig's feet with superior sauce is a traditional Shanghai dish. Priced at 168 yuan, the meat is steamed and boiled for six hours. The chicken, salted and tender, seems to melt on your tongue.

Another popular dish is double-boiled shrimp and bean curd in hotpot. At 45 yuan, it is one of

the most popular dishes here. Flown from Shanghai to Beijing, the bean curd has a distinctly southern flavor; the soup, thick with bean curd and vegetables, tastes like salted milk.

The restaurant's postmodern interior design makes the setting more attractive than the dishes themselves. Located at the nightclub center of Beijing at the west gate of Workers Stadium, the restaurant has been successful at luring the city's party animals and fashionistas.

A sculpture of Xu Xian stands in a pool in front of the restaurant, and on the third floor you can find White Snake and Blue Snake sculptures done by a modern Chinese artist. There is an open balcony on the roof. Sitting there in the summer breeze sipping dry martini and watching the busy streets, you will feel as lucky as Xu.

**Xu Xian**

Where: West gate of Workers Stadium, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm for restaurant, 10 pm – 2 am for bar

Tel: 6551 8812/13



Salted beef, 48 yuan



Fried shrimp with longjing tea, 288 yuan

Photos by Felix Gan

## Other Jiangzhe restaurants

**Changzhou Municipal government restaurant**

Where: 113 Jixiang Li, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 1:30 pm, 5-9 pm

Tel: 6553 5588

**Dintaifung**

Where: 24 Xinyuan Xili Zhongjie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 9:30 pm, Monday to Friday; 11 am – 10 pm on the weekend

Tel: 6462 4502

**Huaiyang Renjia**

Where: 1/F, Jingliang Dasha, 318 Guang'anmen Nei Dajie, Xuanwu District

Open: 9:30 am – 2 pm, 4:30 – 9:30 pm

Tel: 8535 5806

**Zhangjunjia**

Where: 5 Yandai Xie Jie, Houhai, Xicheng District

Open: Daily by appointment

Tel: 8404 6662

## Flavors of Hangzhou

**New**

By He Jianwei

Marco Polo called Hangzhou, "The city of heaven, the most magnificent in all the world." But in addition to the beautiful scenery around West Lake, Hangzhou also enjoys the reputation of having fine food that's crisp, tender, light and sweet.

Tongle Jiangnan Restaurant, which opened on August 16 at Shuangjing on East Third Ring Road, is bringing a new style of Hangzhou food to Beijing, something "not as sweet as the traditional because northerners aren't accustomed to sweet dishes," said restaurant manager Wen Juhua.

A couple of traditional dishes that are not on the menu are Dongpo's pork and West Lake vinegar fish. Both dishes have long histories; for instance, Dongpo's pork comes from Song Dynasty (960-1279) poet Su Dongpo, who made an improvement in the cooking process.

But other popular dishes, like stewed pigtail in an earthen pot (58 yuan), are readily available. Although not as famous as Dongpo's pork, this dish has an interesting history as well.

An anonymous cook came up with the idea of

stewing pigtails many years ago and served it to his family. To his surprise, everyone loved it more than Dongpo's pork, so he put it on the menu.

The pigtail was cut into small slices and stewed with day lily. It melts in the mouth and, while slick, is not greasy.

The restaurant serves free pu'er tea, which aids digestion of the oily food.

Although Tongle Jiangnan is a Chinese restaurant, it has European-style decorations with many black-and-white photos of Europe on the wall. The cozy atmosphere is great for couples out on a date and families.

The original Tongle Jiangnan was opened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province four years ago before branching out to Nanjing, Jiangsu Province and Tianjin.

**Tongle Jiangnan Restaurant**

Where: 4th Building C, Floor U-Space Shopping Mall, A8 Guangqumen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5861 2266



Steamed vegetable in fish broth, 38 yuan



Stewed pigtail, 58 yuan

Photos by Zhang Huan

# Vogue event celebrates China's emerging fashion chic



By He Jianwei

More and more Chinese models and designers have been appearing at international fashion weeks. "Fashion is another way for Westerners to know Chinese culture, though it is just the beginning for us," Wang Wei, the first Chinese fashion designer to appear at London Fashion Week in 2006, said at a *Vogue* celebration last Friday commemorating the magazine's fifth year in China.

The party, which was at Sanlitun Village North, showcased more than 200 photos by fashion photographers both home and abroad, such as Peter Lindbergh, Patrick Demarchelier and Chen Man. The photos, which also show off costumes by up-and-coming Chinese designers, are still on display.

"I am particularly proud – and I know all my colleagues are – that there are many Chinese models who are now up there in the international ranks, with many ethnic Chinese designers now becoming household names," *Vogue* China editorial director Angelica Cheung said.

Wang is one of the designers the magazine has collaborated with extensively in the past five years. A graduate of Shanghai's Donghua University as a fashion design major, he actually started his art career at the age of 4 when he attended national children's art exhibitions four times in the 1980s.

In 1997, Wang worked as chief designer for the late Chen Yifei, a successful painter who turned

his celebrity status as an artist into a lucrative fashion business under the brand Layefe. In 2003, Wang flew to London and started to develop his own brand, Wang Wei Gallery.

His designs combined Western techniques with Eastern philosophy.

"My experience in London taught me that design not only deals with art, but is also a kind of business. Besides technique, you must know how to promote your product," Wang said. "But in our education system, the students only learn how to draw."

It is not easy to discern the Chinese influence in Wang's designs, which look typically Western. "But if you take a second look, it shows a beauty of peace," he said. "Contrary to Westerners, we are more implicit – we will not kiss to express our love, but silently look at your eyes."

Wang admitted that it is too early to say whether the time has come for Chinese designers, but he is optimistic about the next 10 years. "If we understand the market deeply, young Chinese designers will have more opportunity in the Western fashion world," he said.

## The Best of Vogue China Five Years Exhibition

Where: Building 6, Sanlitun North Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Daily until September 11, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5963 1681

## Friday, September 3

### Exhibition Great Performances

Featuring the works of 30-some artists, this exhibition aims to shed light on the developments of contemporary art under China's specific and unusual conditions. Artwork includes videos, installations, paintings and photography from the 1990s to present.

Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 16, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9786

### Movie

#### Who's That Knocking at My Door (1967)

Directed by Martin Scorsese, J.R. is a typical New York Italian-American, and when he gets involved with a local girl

he decides to get married. But she harbors a secret that sets his religious guilt into overdrive: that she was raped.

Where: Blue Goat Cafe, 3 Shuimo Xinqi (200 meters north of Tsinghua University's west gate), Haidian District

When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6265 5069

### Nightlife

#### Goodbye Prince

Taiwan indie-folk duo katn-candix2, founded in 2007, released its second album, *Goodbye Prince*, this year and is in Beijing as part of its eight-city mainland tour.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guanggu Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 8 pm  
Admission: 120 yuan advance purchase, 150 yuan at the door  
Tel: 5205 1112

## Saturday, September 4

### Exhibition Puzzlement and Awakening – Zhang Yong-zheng's Solo

Zhang's works build up an artistic realm based on the cycle, movement and rhythm of yin and yang – the sky and earth, the soul and the universe – with calligraphic free expression.

Where: New Age Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9285

### Movie

#### Zhang Huan Studio (2007) and Making of Semele (2009)

These two documentaries are about artist Zhang Huan. The first reveals the process behind Zhang's artwork and features interviews and clips of how he makes his signature sculptures, ash paintings, woodcarvings and prints. The second documents Zhang as

director and stage designer of the opera *Semele*, which was performed in Brussels last year and will be arriving in Beijing later this year.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: 15 yuan  
Tel: 8459 9269

### Nightlife

#### The Last Chance for Young Love

The band Happy Avenue, founded by writer and journalist Wu Hongfei in 1999, has released its third album. Wu comes from the Dong ethnic minority in southern China and sings "Dongzu Dage," which UNESCO listed as a World Intangible Heritage in 2009.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door, 50 yuan for students  
Tel: 6404 2711

## Sunday, September 5

### Exhibition Hypnosis – Christian Lemmerz Solo Exhibition

This German sculptor has created a large installation that seeks to make viewers directly confront their own lives – and eventual death. Lemmerz always engages with the major conditions of our existence in his art – life, death, love, religion, freedom and oppression.

Where: Fauschou Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao

Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 31, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9316

### Movie

#### Three Idiots (2009) and Beyond the Clouds (1995)

*Three Idiots* is a Bollywood comedy about two friends embarking on a quest for a lost buddy. On their journey, they remember a long forgotten bet, encounter a wedding they must crash

and a funeral that goes impossibly out of control. *Beyond the Clouds* is four short tales linked by a story filmed by Wim Wenders. Taking place in Ferrara, Portofino, Aix en Provence and Paris, each story, always with a woman at the crux, is an invitation for an inner journey.

Where: Crystal Club Coffee & Bar, 2/F Building 12, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 2:30 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan for mem-

bers, 30 yuan for non-members  
Tel: 5960 3177

### Nightlife Floral Times

Kulu Leong is a folk musician based in Beijing whose music is quiet and unadorned. *Floral Times* is his first album.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door  
Tel: 64025080

## Upcoming

### Nightlife

#### Greetings from Andalusia

Spanish musician Alberto Cuellar plays the flamenco guitar, a skill he inherited from his grandfather, who won first prize at the first Cante Johdo competition in 1922.

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District  
When: September 9, 7 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan, 40 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

## Stage in October

### Concert

#### Concerto Koln

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: October 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-880 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7845

#### Budapest Festival Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: October 4-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Percussion Ensemble Atalaya of Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: October 4-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Vienna Boy's Choir

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 16, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-880 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

### Dance

#### Moiseyev Dance Company

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 1-3, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

#### Chinese Folk Dance Drama: The Flower

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: October 12-13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-380 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Drama

#### The Crab Flower by Singapore's Toy Factory Theater Ensemble

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District  
When: October 9-21, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-120 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

#### British TNT's Othello

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: October 15-17, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 60-380 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

### Opera

#### Handel Opera: Semele

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 24, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

(By He Jianwei)



# Ease Fibromyalgia naturally

By Li Zhixin

Doctors usually recommend exercise, sleep and medications when treating fibromyalgia, but the effectiveness is often limited and the chronic pain and fatigue associated with the condition can make running and swimming difficult.

A new study suggests that tai chi — the slow-moving, meditative martial art — may be a more effective alternative.

## Tai chi as a natural therapy

US researchers divided 66 people diagnosed with fibromyalgia into two groups: one group did hour-long sessions of tai chi twice a week for three months; the other had a twice-weekly lifestyle education class followed by gentle stretching.

After three months, symptoms were significantly alleviated in the tai chi group while the control group reported no improvements. Most participants reported a decrease in feelings of pain, fatigue, depression and anxiety, and an overall better quality of life. They also reported better sleep quality and improved physical conditioning.

The improvements were still evident at 24 weeks, according to the research reported in the August 19 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Tai chi is a mind-body exercise that originated as a martial art. It combines meditation with slow, gentle movements, deep breathing and relaxation. It can improve muscle strength, flexibility, balance, sleep and coordination by moving chi, or vital energy, throughout the body.

Although it is not clear from the study how tai chi might improve fibromyalgia, both the physical activity and the meditative aspects are likely beneficial, says Chenchen Wang, the lead researcher and an associate professor at the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston.

"Some people need the physical improvement, while others need more mental improvement," she says. "Tai chi can help with both. The physical component of tai chi can improve aerobic capacity, strength and muscle function. But the most important part is mental. You see lots of patients improve their depression and become good friends with each other."

Previous research has shown that tai chi can help relieve arthritis and other pain conditions, but this study was the first controlled trial to examine its effectiveness as a treatment for fibromyalgia.

## Signs and symptoms

Fibromyalgia, a pain in the muscle fibers, is a chronic condition characterized by exhaustion or overwhelming fatigue, insomnia or sleeping disorders and very stiff muscles upon awakening in the morning.

Besides these principal symptoms, fibromyalgia patients often complain of depression, anxiety, headaches and irritable bowel syndrome. While the exact cause remains unknown, there is evidence that people with fibromyalgia may be more sensitive to pain because of a malfunction in the body's pain perception processes.

It is hard for Western medicine to arrive at a diagnosis because fibromyalgia cannot be discovered through lab tests or X-rays. Like chronic fatigue syndrome, it is not seen as a clear-cut disease caused by a specific agent, but rather as a collection of symptoms.

In traditional Chinese medicine, fibromyalgia is broken down as one of three phases:

### 1. Deficiency of spleen and liver chi

In this stage, patients experience fatigue, depression, digestive problems, abdominal fullness and a feeling of

being spaced out and unable to concentrate. Many are frequently in denial that they have a more serious underlying health problem.

"Deficiency in the spleen frustrates clear yang and causes a variety of mental symptoms, such as feeling scattered and experiencing mild headaches," said Dong Hongsheng, a rheumatologist at Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The symptom is also associated with liver depression and chi stagnation. "It may develop into a depressive heat which will cause night sweats, insomnia and irregular menstruation," he said.

This symptom may eventually lead to a deficiency of blood and the next stage of fibromyalgia.

### 2. Cold, wind or damp enters the channels due to blood deficiency

A deficiency of the liver and spleen chi will result in an inability to produce blood, which causes the body to let in cold, wind or damp energy. In addition to persistent fatigue, patients may experience muscle pain and stiffness aggravated by exposure to cold. This

deficiency causes a deficiency of blood to the heart, which will result in sleep disorders and depression.

The main complaints at this stage are joint pain and severe fatigue. Depending on the severity of the disease, the symptoms might be present all the time or might still come and go. All symptoms mentioned in the first phrase may still exist.

"At this stage, most patients have been experiencing fibromyalgia for several years. Most patients usually take medication to relieve pain, but Chinese medicine views that as adding further stress to the liver, which can make actual recovery impossible," he said.

### 3. Exhaustion of kidney yang and yin

At this stage, the patient's tongue is usually pale and purple, and his pulse is faint and choppy.

As the disease develops further, most Western medicines become useless as the patient suffers from severe blood stasis and more significant pain caused by an exhaustion of kidney yang. At this stage, the patient is usually unable to continue with ordinary life and becomes incapacitated.

## Herbal remedies for the disease

Fibromyalgia is called a muscle *bi* syndrome in Chinese medicine. More women than men have the condition, and it tends to come and go throughout life. Although it can be debilitating for some people, it is not degenerative or life-threatening and symptoms can be managed.

An efficient approach to herbal prescriptions is to use herbs that stop pain but also expel the pathogenic factors responsible for the condition. While all of the following herbs help to relieve pain, each focuses on a different type of *bi*: mulberry twig extract is used for wind *bi*, clematis root works for cold *bi* and *mugua* (fructus chaenomelis) works for damp *bi*.

Because wind, cold and damp are intertwined in these *bi* conditions, all three are treated through herbal combinations.

Dosages and herbs are chosen on the basis of predominant symptoms.

Specific herbs for *bi* syndrome also affect different areas of the body and can be used to make the formula more efficient. For examples, *qianghuo* (rhizoma et radix notopterygii) is used for the upper part of the body, particularly the neck, shoulders and upper back; and pubescent angelica root is used for the lower back and legs. Herbs to treat wind, cold or damp in the body can also be added to the formula.

Herbs that address each of the three distinct phrases mentioned above also provide relief of pain and discomfort:

1. The deficiency of both liver and spleen chi can be addressed using bupleurum root or rambling powder.
2. For blood deficiency, the herbal ther-

apy needs to be changed to Chinese angelica root, preferably administered two to three times per week. The addition of evodia can also be helpful.

While patients in the first stage will benefit substantially from regular exercise, it is no longer of importance here because the deficiency now outweighs the stagnation.

3. For chi deficiency caused by exhaustion of kidney yang and yin, progress can be slow. Patients could benefit from strong warming tonics such as deer antler velvet and aconite. Aconite moxa is often beneficial along with a warming diet including ginger tea and beef broth.

The comprehensive approach takes into account the complex and individual nature of the syndrome in each patient.



Li Bin/CFP Photo



# Rediscovery of ancient commercial roads in western Beijing



Yuan Dynasty poet Ma Zhiyuan's former residence inspired many of his poems.



The statue of an ancient official in front of Ma Zhiyuan's former residence



Ancient villages with old-fashioned cottages are major attractions along the ancient commercial route.

Photo by Zhou Sanmou



Stretches of stone roads with deep hoof prints made by horses and camels can still be seen.

Photo by Xuanwu

By Zhang Dongya

Located in western Beijing, the West Mountains have long been known to provide stunning sights for visitors. But what's less well known is that these mountains used to contain coal, and because of that were once part of an ancient trade route.

During the Yuan (1206-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties, horses and camels transported coal and other goods from the West Mountains to inner Beijing along a route that became known as the "Ancient Road of West Beijing."

Today, outdoor enthusiasts who know this route retrace it as a way of following historic footprints and touring soon-to-be-gone villages. Oh, and the scenery's not bad, either.

## Ancient business routes

Like today, households in the Yuan and Ming dynasties relied on coal to sustain their daily lives. The West Mountains were rich in coal and building materials such as stones and colored glaze. A trade route naturally developed from the mountains to Beijing, and connected with routes to Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia.

Today's Fuchengmen in Xicheng District was once the west gate of the capital's inner city, which was the nearest entrance for merchants and traders from West Mountain. Since horses and carriages carrying coal must go through Fuchengmen, the gate was also called the "coal gate." During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), with coal demand rising in Beijing, Xicheng District's Xizhimen was also used for coal transportation.

The ancient routes are mostly scattered in Mentougou District in suburban Beijing. In addition to commerce, some were used by the military and some by common people to venture into the mountains for worship. Visitors can choose any section for their excursion.

## Recommended itinerary for first-timers

One route that's great for novice hikers starts from Shiguyan Village, passes through Seshufen Village (Yuan Dynasty poet Ma Zhiyuan's former residence) and ends in Quanmen Village. The path is relatively flat, without any treacherous passes.

Seshufen (colored-tree tomb) Village is a small village featuring a handful of households living in small cottages, which have unique pointed roofs and are surrounded by wooden railings – a rare sight in mountain villages. A bluestone paved road zigzags through the village, where it seems like only elders can be seen.

On one stretch of stone road, deep hoof prints made by horses and camels can still be seen. There is also a gray cliff wall nearby with fading script carvings. Part of the script is the historical record of a footway that once planked over the cliff.

Neighboring Daoxu Village is an abandoned village where supposedly all but one old couple have moved out.

An important stop is the former residence of Ma Zhiyuan (1250-1324), a Yuan Dynasty literary figure. For 10 yuan, you can tour the courtyard, which was restored in 2008 by the Mentougou government, with an English-speaking guide.

Among Ma's works is a famous poem that speaks of a stone bridge over water – this can be seen inside his restored courtyard.

Continued on page 21...



People hiking on the ancient commercial road of West Beijing to retrace historical footprints.

Photos by Li Xin





Guandi Temple was built for the worship of Fortune God Guan Yu along Wangping Ancient Road.



Statues were built to depict troops and traders on horses and camels transporting goods along the Ancient Road of West Beijing.



Buildings in Ming and Qing styles reflect old prosperity. Photos by Zhou Sanmou

... continued from page 20

One hundred meters from Ma's residence is an ancient tower built during Jin Dynasty (1115-1234). At about 10 meters high and divided into three floors, it was formerly used as an observation post.

People can climb to the top by ladder, where a pavilion once stood. Villagers' houses closely surround the tower, so you'll have to politely go through their yards to get to the tower.

At Luonan (Encounter Difficult) Village is a prison that was supposedly once the place of confinement for the Hui Emperor and Qin Emperor of Song Dynasty (960-1279).

The final stop is Quanmen Village, where there are other sets of hoof prints. Quanmen is a big village, formerly completely dependent on coal production. Locals became rich and built big houses during the Ming and Qing dynasties, some of which are still preserved today.

An ancient theater built during Ming has been restored by the local government. The east wall was built with bricks and stones, while the west wall was constructed using mud. To view the face of the theater, visitors have to enter a yard next to it.

The carvings on the beams are attractive, with figures that have the head of a lion and body of a dragon. Unfortunately, the restored walls have lost their ancient charm.

Another attractive site is the bridge tower, which was recently restored with new railings.

### Wangping Road for rich sites

Another popular route is Wangping Ancient Road, which usually starts from Shifo (Stone Buddha) Range and ends in Sanjiadian (Three Stores) Reservoir via Jiuyuan (Chives Garden) Village. The best

historical sites are along this route.

Jiuyuan Village is an ancient village formed during either the Liao (907-1125) or Jin (1115-1234) Dynasty. Many buildings constructed in Jin and later in Yuan still stand.

From Jiuyuan, head for Ma Zhiyuan's former residence, which is located to the west. The route then leads to Niujaoling (Ox Horn Range) Pass, an important toll stop. Boundary tablets constructed during Qing can be seen along the road.

Near the pass, there is a section of hoof prints that stretches about 200 meters. Locals here charge about 5 yuan for people to go through this part of the road. The hoof prints are still very visible because, as the story goes, horses waiting to pass through the toll would anxiously and repeatedly stomp their feet.

Along this route, visitors can see some small old temples such as Guandi Temple,

used to worship Fortune God Guan Yu, and Sanyi Temple, dedicated to Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei from the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280).

The last stop is Sanjiadian Reservoir, a hub for transferred goods. Despite its name as "three stores," there were as many as 200 shops here during the Ming and Qing dynasties, many open to foreign merchants. The ancient stores have disappeared, and all that remain are some excavated coal pits that can be explored.

**Getting there:** Take Subway Line 1 to Pingguoyuan station, then take Bus 929 to the Dongshiguyan stop, in Shiguyan Village. Both the above routes begin with the Shiguyan stop.

**Note:** The hike takes about four to six hours, depending on your speed. Pack adequate water and food.



An ancient theater built during Ming has been restored by the local government in Quanmen Village.

Photo by Li Xin

## Dining



### Bright Moon

This autumn, Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, the hotel based on the renowned Ming Dynasty City Wall, is presenting two sets of mooncakes: the Festive Set (168 yuan 6/box) and Empire Set (318 yuan 8/box). The sets include flavors like refreshing black tea, traditional white lotus paste with egg yolk, light pumpkin paste and five kernels. Savor the plump sweetness under a golden crust.

Where: Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, 7 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Tel: 5811 8288

### Wild mushroom fest

In addition to their subtle yet amazing flavors, mushrooms are known for their health benefits. Most are rich in calcium, potassium, copper, iron and other essential minerals as well as proteins, vitamins, multiple amino acids and antioxidants. They have more health benefits than any other "vegetable." This month, come celebrate fungi at Lijingxuan. The restaurant is serving several tasty mushroom dishes to stimulate the appetite and promote good health.

Where: Lijingxuan Chinese Restaurant, The Regent Hotel, 97 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm (lunch), 5:30-10:30 pm (dinner)

Tel: 8522 1789

### A touch of Bali

Senses is bringing three Balinese master chefs from the Westin Resort Nusa Dua Bali to showcase the authentic cuisine of the island at its lunch and dinner buffets from September 6 to 16.

Invigorate your senses with authentic Indonesian spices, flavorful curries and tempting dishes, including such delicacies as roast chicken in banana leaves; fresh grilled seafood; sago with coconut milk; fried bananas; and signature Coconut Sorbets. Tantalizing satays and a large selection of vegetarian dishes will delight and inspire your palate. There are also mango, banana, sour sop, tangerine and watermelon fruit juices.

Come for the opening of the promotion at 7 pm on September 8 to see beautiful traditional Balinese dance.

Where: The Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9b Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District

When: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm (lunch buffet), 5:30-10 pm (dinner buffet)

Cost: 248 yuan (lunch buffet), 318 yuan (dinner buffet); all prices include exotic drinks (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 6629 7810



### Happy Mid-Autumn Festival

This year, Sofitel Wanda Beijing is offering two kinds of delicious mooncakes. Its Luxury Box and Imperial Box make the perfect gifts and are great for conveying to a colleague, friend or relative your most heartfelt wishes for the Mid-Autumn festival.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Cost: 198 yuan per box (luxury box), 328 yuan per box (imperial box)

Tel: 8599 6666

## Aviation



### Singapore Airlines commits to rainforest preservation

Singapore Airlines is donating \$3 million (20.4 million yuan) for its first major large-scale green project with long-term, sustainable benefits for the globe. Funds donated by the Airline will go towards supporting the Harapan Rainforest Initiative, a unique collaboration between international non-governmental organizations including BirdLife International and Burung Indonesia.

Representatives from Singapore Airlines, BirdLife International and Yayasan KEHI sealed the agreement at a signing ceremony in Singapore. The Yayasan is an Indonesian non-profit foundation charged by the BirdLife consortium with the day-to-day management of the project.

British Airways offers benefits for Chinese businesses

British Airways' Corporate Travel Programme is tailored to meet the specific needs of the Chinese business community and is designed to help small- to medium-sized enterprises save money on overseas travel. Companies enrolled in the Corporate Travel Programme can get discounted airfares and other benefits, regardless of their size or travel volumes.

For more information about the Corporate Travel Programme or to enroll, visit [britishairways.com/travel/lccorp/public/en\\_cn](http://britishairways.com/travel/lccorp/public/en_cn)

### Jetstar offers cost-saving formula

Get ready for the three-day 2010 Formula 1 Singtel Singapore Grand Prix starting September 24. With the help of leading low fares carrier Jetstar, you can experience all the action. Jetstar flies between Singapore and Haikou four times a week and between Shantou and Singapore three times a week. One way all-inclusive Jetsaver Light ticket starts from 549 yuan from Haikou to Singapore and from 849 yuan for Shantou to Singapore.

## Hotel



### China World Summit Wing Beijing Opens

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts is opening its China World Summit Wing Hotel Beijing, located on the top floors of the capital's latest landmark. The new hotel includes 278 guest-rooms with floor-to-ceiling views of the city and an average guest-room size of 65 square meters, the most spacious in the city.

Come enjoy fine dining and entertainment venues like the hotel's signature restaurant Grill 79, The Lounge, the bar Atmosphere and the Chairman's Rooms and The Peak, exclusive private dining facilities from level 79 upward, including an observation deck on level 81. For relaxation and recreation, the hotel features a lifestyle sanctuary with a 24-hour gym, indoor swimming on level 78, as well as CHI and the Spa, Shangri-La's signature spa brand and Beijing's highest spa retreat on level 77, with six treatment rooms.

The hotel has 5,500 square meters of conference and banquet space, a rooftop Pine Garden on level six, a 95-seat auditorium and 12 function rooms, all with natural daylight and ranging in size from 44 to 269 square meters.

To celebrate its opening, China World Summit Wing is offering a special introductory package until December 31. The package includes accommodations in an Executive Room, complimentary in-room bar, daily breakfast for two, personalized welcome amenities and complimentary wired and wireless broadband Internet access. Rates start at 1,988 yuan plus tax, and reservations are subject to availability.

Where: China World Summit Wing Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6505 2299

(By Sun Feng)



**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# Getting a fix of far-out slang

By Zhao Hongyi

My 18-year-old nephew is an energetic and boisterous guy. This month, he came to Beijing to prepare to attend the Beijing University of Technology in the fall.

My nephew is very good at his studies, especially English, as he knows quite a number of slang terms and idioms. He's cultivated his language skills through a passion for music, especially hard rock.

He's made full use of the last of his pre-collegian days: scouring TV channels for programs that feature his music of choice.

The other day, he got two tickets for a Sunday evening rock concert from his friends. He began preparing for the concert that very morning by stuffing his backpack with beer and snacks.

He was so excited and enjoyed the concert so much that he did not return home until midnight.

"How was the concert?" I asked.

"Far-out," he replied.

I didn't know what that meant.

"It means great," he explained as if I were his student.

"Then how far out is it?"

"The four guys on stage sang for nearly four hours without a break," he said. "It was the most exciting experience I've ever had."

He mimed some of the actions of the singers. "We were so excited that we cried after their performance," he said.

"How do you feel about following the performers alongside drunks and addicts?" I asked.

My nephew shrugged. "We in the audience cried from time to time to have another fix."

I didn't understand "have another fix."

"Another dose of drugs!" he replied. "They get pretty crazy on stage."

"Was it worth it to party all evening?" I asked.

"Wouldn't it be better to hang out with your friends from Beijing in another setting?"

"They're too flaky to do anything together," he said.

Naturally, I didn't understand the meaning of "flaky."

"Unreliable!" he replied, then shooed me out the door, no doubt irritated by an uncle who couldn't make heads or tails out of his slang. (Although, as you can see, I'm not completely oblivious to English idioms!)

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

## Don't walk into burning elevators

By Anthony Tao

Has anyone ever seen an elevator on fire? And the more important, even more rhetorical question: has anyone seen someone actually *get on* an elevator that's on fire?

I think it's safe to say that this sign is unnecessary. Of course no one would dare step into a three-square-meter box filling with flames.

The sign should probably say, "Do not use elevator in case of fire," which means if there is a fire somewhere in the building, you should hurry to the nearest stairwell. This is, of course, to prevent you from being trapped inside an oven should the fire reach the elevator shaft – though you'd probably perish from smoke inhalation first.

Ah, but let's not get morbid. And, really, let's not nitpick too much here. The translation on the sign is actually decent, and this is a good example of an English



phrase being perfectly understandable even if it's not strictly "proper."

Now the most relevant question of all: if you're inside the elevator already and it catches fire, what do you do? Don't look at me for answers to that one.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

### 1. In his memoir, Henry Paulson recalled telling the president that it was impossible to spot a coming financial blowup.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** This is a perfect sentence. I came across it in a commentary in the *International Herald Tribune*. What strikes me is its laconism. It tells so many things with such an economy of words – thanks to the usage of the pattern "verb + participle." Normally people say: In his memoir, Henry Paulson recalled that he once told the president that it was impossible to spot a financial blowup coming. We have two subject clauses in succession here. It is not concise, so it is not good. I have another example of the pattern: I doubt anyone ever died regretting that he had failed to take a vacation. I think we have to be a careful reader and try all the time to find the good points in other people's writings to improve our own.

**Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ):** I agree that one of the best ways to become a better writer is to read. However, reading only IELTS or TOEFL passages that may be on the exam isn't enough. A person should be reading real English literature, and you can now find many excellent stories, even at a simplified level.

### 2. The two-year anniversary

**ZS:** This is a mistake people keep making all the time, though I have repeatedly cautioned them: Would you say you celebrate your 20-year birthday? Definitely not. You celebrate your 20th birthday (many happy returns on the day). This is the same with "anniversary." Anniversary means the yearly return of a special date. For instance, the 25th wedding anniversary. Would you say 25-year wedding anniversary? Definitely not, either. So, before the word "anniversary," you will have to use the ordinal number. Next time, please remember: They celebrated the second (not two-year) anniversary of the founding of the NGO by going to the streets to offer voluntary service.

**TBZ:** It seems to me that this is an incorrect saying made popular by TV advertising. I think that sometimes, in the desire to write a CATCHY and EXCITING and COOL advertisement, the language suffers. And advertising, in general, hurts my brain. If you pay attention, many TV commercials do not make sense at all. On the other hand, you should overlook the error and support your NGO of choice because they are doing good work and need your participation.

### 3. Boho yet elegant

**ZS:** This is one of the subspecies of expressions often seen in fashion magazines. Boho is a buzzword, short for "bohemian." Of no high-brow English, it is the fashionista's way of talking about styles that are hippie-influenced, often made of lightweight beaded or fringed fabrics. It is the kind of style accepted by the bohemians who live in Greenwich Village in New York. Though boho does not look like standard English, it is fairly recurrent in fashion magazines. For instance, "boho yet" may well be completed with: elegant, classy, uptown, sophisticated, "very '80s," glittery. And you may well encounter such English combinations of "complicated yet" with: trendy, funky, soft, whimsical, no-fuss, edgy, rebellious, etc. As a matter of fact, this kind of antithesis is intended by magazine editors to cover a clientele as broad as possible for the products they advertise.

**TBZ:** I used to have a friend who would talk in the lingo of whatever job she was currently at, leaving those of us, who did not speak in those acronyms, out of the conversation. If you regularly read fashion, you will already know the term "boho." If I were doing your copy-editing, I might circle it in red and you might fire me for not being young and cool. Are such short forms a result of instant text messaging – we want it fast and we don't want to spell it out completely? Or simply a space-(and therefore money-)saving technique? There are so many "specialized" words of this sort that it's hard to keep up, unless it truly is your field of interest.



## Movie of the week

If you are looking for total realism, stand at a bus stop for two hours. It's free.

If you are looking for a film that is more *James Bond* than James Bond with a little *Bourne* thrown in, then go and see *Salt*. But you will have to wait and see how this film turns out and who the real heroes are.

This is not a film for people preoccupied with gender or age, always searching for the next new concept. It is pure excitement as is rarely done better. Its release couldn't have come at a more relevant time since a major Russian spy ring was broken up in the US last month.

## Synopsis

Evelyn Salt is a CIA agent and highly respected by all, including her boss, Ted Winter. Out of the blue, a Russian spy walks into their offices and offers a vital piece of information: the President of Russia will be assassinated during his forthcoming visit to New York City to attend the funeral of the recently deceased US Vice President. The name of the assassin is Evelyn Salt. Concerned about the safety of her husband, who she cannot contact, she goes on the run. Who is Salt and what is she planning?



## Scene 1

### At CIA headquarters

(Salt is concentrating on a cooking lesson.)

**Ted Winter (W):** Are you doing this on company time?

**Evelyn Salt (S):** It's my anniversary and I want it to be perfect. But ... that is not sexy.

**W:** No, but it is utilitarian and utilitarian is the new sexy.

**CIA agent A (A):** We ran the trace. First name Usem, last name Utsa.

**S:** Any verifiable hits?

**A:** Only one.

**W:** Francis, do me a favor. Stick it in the safe until tomorrow. Matahari here's got a big night tonight.

**A:** Yes, sir. Right away, sir.

**W:** Sir? Do I look like a sir to you?

**S:** From head to toe. I was surprised because he didn't call you "Your Majesty."

**W:** I like the ring of that. I think I prefer "Your Majesty."

**S:** Was I ever that young?

**W:** Younger. *Walk me out* (1).

**S:** How did the *Oval Office* (2) briefing go?

**W:** You know, the usual. The president wants to know what happens in Russia the day before it happens. What about you? I heard that interview went well.

**S:** Hmm ... fingers crossed.

**W:** Are you sure about this? You know, once you start pushing paper, there is no way back.

**S:** I had the strangest feeling when I was out last time. I was homesick.

**W:** Homesick? Is there something else ...

**CIA agent B (B):** Sir! Sir! We got a *walk-in* (3). A defector, 10 minutes ago.

**W:** Here?

**S:** Guess he's not buying our cover.

**W:** He's *bona fide* (4)?

**B:** He's Russian. Says he's FSB, won't give us any more. He's a strange guy.

**W:** How's his English?

**B:** Passable, not great. We need to convince him of the settlement.

**S:** Ted, Mike's gonna be waiting for me at home.

**W:** Yeah, and I got a plane to catch. Come on, Salt, no one can sort out a nut job faster than you.

**S:** I have 25 minutes.

**W:** I got 26. Let's go.

## Scene 2:

### At the interrogation room

(Salt is questioning the Russian spy.)

**Evelyn Salt (S):** You're killing me, man. When does the good fairy come in?

**Orlov (O):** No, never ... It's a story without hope. Chankov had matched a girl to an American family. There was an accident, the family died. So Chankov was sent to America to live a complete lie ...

And to patiently await the day to attack from within, Day X. The long-awaited mission is here. Chankov will travel to your city to kill the President of Russia at the funeral of the American vice president. Chankov is KA12.

**T:** KA?

**Peabody (P):** It's an urban legend. Russian *sleepers* (5) inserted into American society to sabotage and assassinate. Supposedly they wait years to strike. Decades even.

**T:** Supposedly.

**P:** What's the matter, Ted? You don't believe in moles?

**T:** No. I believe in moles all right. Just not the boogeyman. Especially if the plan is to kill their own president. This guy's *selling smoke* (6). *Wrap it up* (7), Eve.

**S:** So a Russian agent is gonna kill the Russian president. Right? OK. Thank you very much. And what would you like to return for that information?

**O:** I simply wish to help you do what you need to do.

**S:** You're good. That KA program is brilliant bulls—t. But I am officially off-duty, so you can tell the rest of your little story to one of my colleagues.

**O:** Salt.

**S:** Yes.

**O:** The name of the Russian agent is Salt, Evelyn Salt.

**S:** My name is Evelyn Salt.

**O:** Then you are a Russian spy.

## Scene 3:

### At the helipad

(Salt is sent to the FBI under escort of Peabody)

**P:** Why'd you kill him?

**S:** Because somebody had to.

**P:** What?

**S:** Do you think that everyone is who they said they are? You knew that something was wrong when Orlov walked in. So did I. We just don't know what it was. Winter did.

**P:** Winter? You expect me to believe that Winter was gonna launch the nukes and you saved the world?

**S:** I would like you to believe that, yes.

**P:** It's a big accusation.

**S:** Well ... He's dead now, so he can't defend himself. I guess you'll have to decide for yourself.

**P:** How many more like you are there?

**S:** Like me? None. Like him? More than you can imagine. Do you really think that a trained Soviet agent will not be able to kill the president of Russia from a reasonable distance if she wanted to? Or you, for that matter. I could've killed you at the funeral, but I didn't.

**P:** You surrendered to me, because you know you have no choice.

**S:** You know better. I had a choice. You know better.

**P:** If I did believe you ... and I'm not saying for a second that I do, but if I did, nobody else would.

**S:** Maybe you can think of a way around that. They took everything from me. I'll kill them all.

**P:** Go get 'em.

## Vocabulary

- walk someone out:** to take someone out for a talk.
- Oval Office:** an epithet for the US president's office
- walk-in:** someone who shows up unexpectedly
- bona fide:** genuine
- sleeping agent:** a spy who is placed in a target country
- sell smoke:** tell a lie meant to distract
- wrap up:** here it means to end the interrogation

(By Huang Daohen)